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FIVEPENCE.



"A PEASANT OF DALECARLIA," BY E. LUNDGREN.

FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATIES.

On the interpellation of M. Jules Brame, a very important discussion has been taken in the Corps Législatif relative to the French commercial treaties. For the first time, we believe, in the history of the Empire, the champions of Free Trade have met those of Protection upon an open stage, and the principles, as well as the main facts, of the conflicting systems have been brought under the notice of the French public. We accept this as an omen for good to both countries. Probably there are no other two nations on earth between which an unfettered interchange of commodities would be of greater benefit, material and moral. They would appear to have been furnished by the wisdom of Providence with just those distinctive advantages best calculated to complement one another, and to render the peoples upon whom they have been conferred mutually helpful. The most sagacious statesmen of both countries have recognised, from time to time, their commercial adaptabilities, and, there can be little doubt, would long since have removed artificial obstructions to the natural currents of trade, had they not been prevented, sometimes by the accidents of the time, sometimes by hostile political feelings, from giving effect to their own wishes. It is not surprising that our neighbours across the Channel should have regarded a policy of unrestricted commercial competition with dislike, and even with apprehension. The frequent wars in which England and France were wont to seek each other's destruction, or, at any rate, the exhaustion of each other's vitality and strength, indisposed them to look upon each other in the light of possible customers, and there were but few men on either side who could survey the field of enterprise which Free Trade would open to the nations in common without deep prejudice. It took upwards of fifty years of peace to make any serious approach to free commerce between them a practicable thing, and even then it had to be made by means which left the assent of the French Legislative Body out of the question.

The French Treaty of Commerce—for we shall confine our remarks to the treaty with England—was a step taken by the Emperor Napoleon in advance of the views and prejudices of his subjects. By a *Senatus Consultum* of 1852 the Emperor was authorised to make commercial treaties on his sole responsibility; and in 1860 he exercised his authority by assenting to the engagements negotiated by his own commissioners with Mr. Cobden. Sir Stafford Northcote finds fault with the form in which the principles of Free Trade were thereby embodied, because it tended, he says, to suggest erroneous inferences. No doubt commercial treaties are an objectionable mode of pursuing Free-Trade aims. Mr. Cobden himself admitted as much. But the question in 1860 lay between the relaxation of the French prohibitive or highly-protective system by means of a commercial treaty or no relaxation at all. Mr. Cobden and, in support of him, Mr. Gladstone were wise enough to prefer the substance in a questionable form to a sacrifice of substance for form's sake, and so the treaty was concluded, to the great dissatisfaction of French Protectionists, who believed that a march had been stolen upon them.

The debate in the French Chamber indicates the soreness of feeling still felt on account of the circumstances in which the treaty had its origin. The signing of that international engagement has been denounced as a commercial *coup-d'état*. It may not have done all the mischiefs which its adversaries predicted of it. It may not have accomplished all the good which political economists declared it would. But it was unfairly plucked out of the hands of protected interests, and cannot consequently be condoned and allowed to run on unchallenged. The day is close at hand when notice of expiry must be given by either of the contracting parties intending to put an end to it. Not to give that notice would be to extend to the treaty a tacit connivance. Such is the case of the French Protectionists, as submitted by their representatives. France has now a responsible Ministry. The act of the Emperor is reaching its originally assigned limits. Parliament is bound to take the whole question in hand, and it may best do this by instituting an inquiry into the origin and operation of the existing commercial treaties.

To this representation of the case, the reply of the French Ministers is not quite so decided as it might have been. On the origin of the treaty with England, indeed, their position was strong enough. The Act was passed under a régime according to which it was legally authorised, and therefore could not logically be denounced as illegal. Nor was it necessary to set aside the existing treaty in order to assert the recently-acquired right of the Chamber to regulate all the great interests of the empire; for it would exercise its authority equally in maintaining as in modifying or denouncing treaties. Where the French Government displayed what we must be allowed to call impolitic timidity, was in hesitating to justify the liberal commercial policy in which they intend to persevere by a frank and direct appeal to Free-Trade principles, as well as by an argumentative exposition of the facts. It may be that their desire is "to educate their party." It may be that M. Ollivier, like the late Sir Robert Peel in the interval between 1841 and 1846, deems it necessary to veil from the eyes even of his own supporters the economical truths which are penetrating his mind, and which will, at no great distance of time, subvert the present system of Protection. But we doubt whether any advantage will be gained by pretending to neutrality as it regards the doctrine of unrestricted competition, which is not more than balanced by the loss which it is certain of entailing. The anger of opponents is never allayed, while their hopes are almost always excited, by any assumption of doubt or indifference respecting the logical bases upon which alone the friends of an assailed system can fully defend it. The best chance for the continuance and expansion of Free Trade in France will consist in the completest exposition of its principles—and it is a matter of regret that neither M.

Louvet, the Minister of Commerce, nor M. Buffet, the Minister of Finance, held language in the Senate on this head which political economists could receive with entire satisfaction.

There is good reason to expect, however, that the French Commercial Treaty with this country will be loyally maintained. Its results have been so beneficial to all interests except partially protected ones, that it will not be easy to persuade French consumers to return to a substantially prohibitive tariff. M. Jules Simon proved that in 1866 the imports into France taken for consumption, and the exports of French productions, amounted to 5974 million francs, as against 3903 millions in 1859. Some branches of industry, he admitted, were in a suffering state, though not on account of the existing treaties; but, on the whole, he contended, and apparently with great success, that Free Trade, so far as it was yet recognised in France, had greatly ameliorated the condition of the country. There was another argument used by him which we regard as so cogent and so tersely put that we cannot resist the pleasure of quoting his words. "Commercial liberty," he says, "is an indispensable condition of peace; for so long as we continue to have an army of revenue officers on the frontier the fraternity of nations will be impossible. But when peoples shall only be rival traders instead of enemies, I defy you to make them fight. By freedom of labour and commerce will be founded the future of liberty, and all war will be at an end."

We have taken no notice of the outcries which have been made in England against the French Commercial Treaty by the advocates of reciprocity. Indeed, if ever there were the least need to expose anew the fallacies which have been used of late in support of the obsolete doctrines of Protection, the necessity has been so completely met and removed by the Earl of Derby and Sir Stafford Northcote, that any further reasoning on the subject has been rendered utterly superfluous. Even if France should withdraw from the commercial relation she now sustains towards England, the latter would not alter her tariffs. The fact that France ignorantly injured herself would furnish no ground for England to imitate her bad example. No notice will be given from this side of the Channel for the termination of a treaty out of which such abundant good has come to the nation; and, albeit France is resolved to inquire into its operation upon her trade and commerce—or, perhaps we may more correctly say, because of it—we do not anticipate that the first movement towards abrogating the treaty will be made by her.

"A PEASANT OF DALECARLIA."

The province of Dalecarlia—popularly so called from its comprising the basins of the Dal and its principal head-streams, or the Falun Län, as the district is now designated—forms one of the most interesting portions of Sweden. It comprises part of the southern mountain region of Sweden and a part of the region of mines. To the west of the capital town of Falun is the great copper-mine in which Gustavus Vasa worked, and which has yielded plentifully for 600 years. The fumes from this mine, or rather from the smelting-works about it, have destroyed every trace of vegetation in the neighbourhood, and even wild animals and birds are seldom seen, yet the vapours are said to be innocuous to man, and they are believed to have protected the town from the ravages of cholera. The province contains some of the most characteristic scenery of Sweden, the most remarkable feature being the celebrated cataract of Elfcarleby, near the mouth of the Dal—the rival of the Falls of Schaffhausen in height and beauty. The winter in this northern latitude and elevated region is, of course, long and severe, the summer short and hot. The winter is too long for wheat to succeed; but rye, barley, and potatoes are raised. Even this produce is, however, insufficient for the demands of the scanty population dispersed in the villages, and the tender bark of pines is mixed with the bread. Yet the Dalecarlians are distinguished by their stature, courage, frankness, and spirit of independence. The part they took under Gustavus Vasa in liberating their country from the tyranny of Christian II. is always fresh in their memory, keeping alive the sentiment of patriotic pride. Many of them emigrate to Stockholm during the summer, and manufacture fancy basket-work, clocks, watches, and other articles.

The admirably-painted study of a peasant girl of this fine Scandinavian stock, which we have engraved from a drawing by the Swedish artist, Mr. Lundgren, in the Winter Exhibition of the Old Water-Colour Society, bears out in the comeliness of the type, the glow of health in the plump, ruddy cheeks, and the simple frankness of the expression, all that one has heard of the homely, unsophisticated charms to be found, despite all the rigours and privations incidental to the climate, in the happy, romantic Dalecarlian valleys. As in all primitive districts, the costumes are quaintly picturesque; and the reader will readily imagine how a figure such as this would enliven the solemn and austere grandeur of the scenery, or pleasantly soothe and solace the long and dreary winter's night watches.

MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.

The following circular, addressed to the supporters of the Government, was issued on Saturday last:—

"10, Downing-street, Jan. 21, 1870.
"Sir,—The meeting of Parliament has been fixed by her Majesty for Feb. 8, and, as matter of great public moment will be submitted to the House of Commons on a very early day, I take the liberty of expressing my hope that it may suit your convenience to be in your place at the opening of the Session.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, W. E. GLADSTONE."

Lord Granville has addressed the supporters of the Government in the House of Peers, requesting their attendance at the opening of Parliament on Feb. 8, when "matters of interest and importance will be brought under their consideration."

Mr. Disraeli has issued a circular to his supporters, expressing a hope that they may find it convenient to be in their places on Feb. 8, "as business of importance may be expected."

The Address in the House of Lords will be moved by the Marquis of Huntly and seconded by the Earl of Fingall.

The Address of the House of Commons, in answer to the Speech from the Throne, will be moved by Captain the Hon. Francis Egerton, member for East Derbyshire, and seconded by Sir Charles Wentworth Dilke, member for Chelsea.

Sir Samuel Baker's expedition was at Berber, on the Nile, on New-Year's Day.

The half-yearly report of the Brighton Railway Company is a document of considerable interest. It appears that the New Cross collision cost the company £45,000, and reduced the dividend from 22s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per share. The directors consider the accident unavoidable, the compensations exorbitant, and the law unjust. Apart from this unfavourable item, the report shows a considerable recovery in the value of the company's property.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, Jan. 27.

The debate on the French commercial treaties has taken place in the Corps Législatif and an inquiry been determined on. The principal speaker in the interest of protection was M. Thiers, who talked of "re-establishing prosperity where it no longer existed," of "sustaining the national labour of the country, in giving birth to it where it does not exist, but, above all, to preserve it where it does," and maintained that a system of free trade ought not to be the law of the world. French manufacturers were not able to cope with those of England and Switzerland. The former country possessed an abundance of raw material, an immense market, more machinery, and cheaper coal, and, finally, a great superiority of production, as it worked thirty-four millions of spindles against the six millions of France, and manufactured 3,000,000 bales of cotton against 700,000, the entire French total. Whereas as regards Switzerland, it possesses all the year round hydraulic power which France can only rely on in winter, forcing it to use steam, which entails a large expenditure; in addition to which the taxation in the one country is at the rate of 15fr. per head, and in the other between 60fr. and 70fr. M. Thiers then proceeded to point out that the chintz-printers of Alsace had taken to printing cheap cottons imported from England or Switzerland instead of French goods, and had thereby sacrificed Rouen, which had already to struggle with England. The consequence was that one fourth of the spinning-factories, one third of the weaving establishments, and three fourths of the engineers' shops had been closed. The same arguments and facts apply to the linen and woollen manufactures. The duties are not only insufficient, but they are not fully levied, from the absolute impossibility of examining every piece of imported goods. Out of 500 establishments in Poitou, Brittany, Normandy, &c., for the preparation of charcoal iron, no less than 353 have perished. The result has been that the manufacture, destroyed in France, has developed itself in foreign countries, and charcoal iron has to be imported from Sweden. M. Thiers then maintained that agriculture had likewise suffered; that the race of French sheep promised to disappear, and that France imported 180,000,000 lb. of wool against the 70,000,000 lb. she produced herself. With respect to corn, she was unable to compete with eastern Europe. French shipping, too, was in a state of extreme peril, for the law of 1866 had dealt it a death-blow. The trade with England had increased, it was true, but by the ruin of native merchant shipping. England, finding the markets of the United States closed to her, and those of her colonies protected against her, has inundated France with her productions. French workmanship is the perfection of skill, but it is not cheap. Why, then, attempt to rival England in low prices. Her aim is cheapness; the aim of France, excellence. The position of France is still to be envied, even by that great and admirable nation called England. Heaven preserve me from saying a word of offence against a country which has been an inviolable refuge for the proscribed in all revolutions. For that nation has given us the most glorious model of human liberty, and where the Administration, holding itself at an equal distance from passions both above and below, is in my eyes the ideal of Government. But there is in her grandeur something that is not so solid as the situation of France, who has her consumers at home, and whose market does not depend on the peace of Europe. England has, on the contrary, a somewhat artificial existence, and the day may come when she will find no purchasers for her productions, which exceed her own requirements tenfold. "That little island," said Fox, "embraces the whole world." Yes! but in doing so it is vulnerable everywhere. After a few further remarks, M. Thiers brought his oration to a conclusion, amidst loud cheers from the Protectionist party in the Chamber.

On Monday, M. Forcade de la Roquette, the late Minister of the Interior, replied seriatim to the statements of M. Thiers, denied the accuracy of his figures, and combated the results which he deduced from them. His speech, which was of great length, was interrupted by the closing of the sitting, and resumed on the following day, when he attributed the depression prevailing in the French cotton trade to the American War and the centralisation of the manufacture, and brought forward an array of statistics in reply to those quoted by M. Thiers. He supported the inquiry, however, feeling assured that a complete justification of the treaties of commerce would result from it. M. Thiers rejoined, impugning in his turn M. Forcade de la Roquette's figures, and the Chamber agreed to the investigation demanded. An incident of this sitting that created some sensation during the temporary suspension of the debate on the commercial treaties was an assertion by Count de Kératry to the effect that a number of historical documents had been abstracted from the public archives, notably letters written by Napoleon I., his brothers, and his Ministers, police reports relating to the Revolution and the Empire, and the whole of the documents connected with the landing of Prince Louis Napoleon at Boulogne. The Count did not hesitate to assert that the foregoing documents had been abstracted by "superior orders."

M. Rochefort made default, on Saturday, before the Tribunal of Correctional Police on the hearing of the proceedings against him with respect to his article in the *Marseillaise* on the day following the death of Victor Noir. The Advocate Imperial demanded that as light a sentence as possible should be passed; the only object the Government had in view being to make the law respected. The Court complaisantly enough decided on condemning the deputy of the first circumscription to a sentence of six months' imprisonment coupled with a fine of 3000fr., without the interdiction of all civil rights, as is customary in cases of the kind. The result is that M. Rochefort still retains his seat in the Corps Législatif, and has a considerable time before him to appeal against even this light sentence, which, if confirmed, will, it is believed, never be carried out, as the Government have in preparation a measure relating to press offences, and purpose, it is said, on the passing of it, to publish a complete amnesty in favour of those convicted under the existing law.

The strike which commenced last week at the great ironworks of Creuzot, employing on the whole about 19,000 hands, and of which M. Schneider, President of the Corps Législatif, is director-in-chief and a large proprietor, has been brought to a close without any serious results, although these seem to have been anticipated by the Government having dispatched a large military force to the spot, including two regiments of the Line, four squadrons of lancers, and a number of gendarmes, in all upwards of 3000 men. The strike seems to have originated on some proposition made by the manager with reference to the sick and benefit fund, which was considered at three meetings, all more or less tumultuous, of the hands employed, but led to no result. A fitter in the machine department, named Assy, who had taken an active part against the management of the works, and had temporarily absented himself from his duties, was discharged in consequence, and eventually induced the hands to strike. He was, it appears, in relation with trade societies in Paris and London, and was speedily supplied with funds. Moreover, one of the writers in the *Marseillaise* hastened to the scene of strife and encouraged the workmen in their resistance. The presence of the military, however, with the remembrance of what had lately occurred at Aubin, when a number of workmen on strike fell under the chassepots of the troops, overawed the disaffected; and work was eventually resumed, after a few arrests had been made.

Now that Paris is restored to a state of calm, the round of banquets, balls, and receptions has commenced. The new Prefect of the Seine has inaugurated his administration by a grand banquet at the Hôtel de Ville, and most of the Ministers have been giving dinners and receptions. On Wednesday, too, there was a state ball at the Tuileries, which is the first Court festivity we have had this season; and to-night a grand ball will take place at the Hôtel de Ville.

The President of the Chamber of Accusations of the High Court of Justice has been continuing his interrogations of witnesses in the Autel affair, and has been examining both Prince Pierre and M. de Fonvielle by the aid of plans of the apartments in the Prince's

house. M. Ledru Rollin, who had promised to plead on behalf of the Noir family in a civil suit which they have commenced against Prince Pierre for damages, has, on re-consideration, declined doing so, as he could not, he says, take the oath which will be required of him as one of the counsel of the Paris Bar, and thereby sanction, as it were, all the odious laws of the Second Empire.

M. Raspail, who has been seriously ill, is progressing towards recovery.

ITALY.

A Royal decree has been published, extending the prorogation of the Parliament to March 7, in order to give the Ministry time to prepare a detailed financial statement and to elaborate measures for the restoration of the finances of the kingdom.

We learn from Rome that the printed admonitions, signed by the secretaries of the Oecumenical Council, were distributed last Saturday amongst the Bishops, enjoining upon them the strict observance of secrecy and the necessity of brevity in their discourses at the Council. At Saturday's sitting of the Congregation the Archbishop of Cashel celebrated mass, and five Fathers delivered speeches.

The infant, Princess of Parma was baptised, last Saturday, in the chapel of the Quirinal. Cardinal Patrizi officiated, and Cardinal Antonelli, representing the Pope, held the Princess at the font.

SPAIN.

The debate on the proposal to exclude the Bourbons from the throne took place in the Cortes on Monday, and was rejected by 152 to 38. Marshal Prim, in the course of the discussion, said that Government had resolved on postponing for the present the question of a candidate for the throne.

The Minister of Finance has submitted to the Cortes a bill providing for the liquidation of all claims on the Treasury not anterior to 1868.

The elections thus far have resulted in the return of four Unionists, five Democrats, ten Progressists, six Republicans, and one Carlist. A heavy fall of snow has impeded the polling in the country districts. The success or otherwise of the Duke of Montpensier in the Asturias will not be known before Saturday. The polling of the first two days was greatly in his favour, but the polling of the third day turned the scale against him. General Cabrera, the old Carlist leader, has not been elected.

PORTUGAL.

Unable to get on with the present Chamber of Deputies in Lisbon, the King has dissolved it. New elections are to take place on March 15.

GERMANY.

The Archduke Carl Ludwig of Austria arrived at Berlin on a visit on Monday. He was received at the railway station by the Crown Prince of Prussia, other members of the Royal family, and the Austrian Embassy.

The Prussian Chamber of Deputies has passed a bill abolishing restrictions on the freedom of the press.

The Federal Council of the North German Confederation met on Wednesday, and the Reichstag will meet on Feb. 20.

The First Chamber of the Saxon Diet, in opposition to the strong appeals of the Ministers, has adopted a motion in favour of disavowment by 24 votes against 21.

The Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne, drawn up by the Committee of the Bavarian Chamber appointed for that purpose, contains a decided vote of want of confidence against the Hohenlohe Ministry.

The municipality of Munich has conferred the freedom of that city on Dr. Dollinger for the stand he has taken against the dogma of the Infallibility of the Pope. Dr. Dollinger has written an "open letter" in reference to the Bishops' Petition for the Declaration of Papal Infallibility. The Bishops, he says, are signing an address in which the Pope is besought, on the part of the Council, to declare himself infallible. That is to say—"one hundred and eighty millions of human beings are henceforth to be forced, on pain of excommunication, refusal of the sacraments, and everlasting damnation, to believe and to profess that which the Church hitherto has not believed, not taught."

AUSTRO-HUNGARY.

Herr von Kaiserfeld has been appointed President of the Vienna Ministry. The post was first offered to Count Adolphus Auersperg, who, however, only consented to accept it upon terms which were not approved by the Cabinet Council. Herr von Unger is to be Minister without portfolio, and General Wagner Minister for War.

The Committee of the Lower House of the Reichsrath approved, yesterday week, the Government bill for the levy of the army contingent for 1870. Herr Figuly, a member of the committee, announced his intention of bringing forward a motion, in the full sitting of the House, for the reduction of the effective strength of the army to 600,000 men, a step which would effect a saving for the year of twenty million florins. On Saturday Count Beust, replying to attacks upon his policy, declared that his object had always been to soothe domestic differences and promote peace abroad; and he believed he had in a great degree succeeded. Herr Giskra intimated, on Wednesday, that the Ministry were determined to do their utmost to uphold the national autonomy. Count Beust expressed his satisfaction at the moderate tone of the Ministry, and gave his adhesion to the address of the majority.

A Ministerial ordinance revokes the prohibition against the exportation of arms from the ports of the Adriatic.

It is proposed to hold an international exhibition at Vienna in 1873.

AMERICA.

Prince Arthur, as stated in the Court news, has been presented to the President. Great attention continues to be paid to his Royal Highness.

Her Majesty's ship Monarch, with the remains of Mr. Peabody, arrived at Portland on Tuesday. Admiral Farragut was there with several American war vessels to receive the ships from England. Delegations from the National Departments and various State Legislatures have arrived at Portland to attend the obsequies. The remains of Mr. Peabody will attend in a body. The remains will be landed to-day (Saturday), when there will be an imposing naval, military, and civil ceremony. The funeral is to take place on Tuesday next.

Congress has passed the bill readmitting Virginia to representation, under conditions. These conditions require the Virginia State officers to take the test oath that they are not disqualified by complicity in the rebellion, or else that Congress has removed the disqualification. The Virginia State Constitution is never to be altered so as to deprive negroes of the same rights of suffrage, office-holding, and school privileges as whites, or to require different qualifications for office-holding or voting on the part of negroes from those required in whites. This bill passed by a strict party vote. The President has signed it.

It is announced in the New York papers that President Grant communicated a message in writing to the Senate, on the 10th inst., accompanied by a treaty for the annexation of San Domingo to the United States. The documents were of a confidential nature, and were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. It is unofficially stated that the sum to be paid by the United States is a million dollars and a half. This is to be devoted to the liquidation of all the obligations of the Republic of San Domingo, including the redemption of its currency.

The Mississippi Legislature has elected Mr. Revels, a negro clergyman, to be United States senator.

President Grant has nominated Mr. William Cambach as United States Minister to Portugal, vice Mr. Shellabarger, resigned.

INDIA.

The Calcutta papers teem with reports of the festivities in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh. There have been balls, illuminations, and rejoicings of all kinds.

CHINA.

The treaty between the United States and China (according to a

Central Press telegram from Hong-Kong) has been ratified and the Burlingame mission extended two years.

The *Overland China Mail* says that the marriage of the Emperor of China is deferred until next autumn.

JAPAN.

The New York newspapers contain news from Japan. The Mikado, fearing a combination of the southern Princes under Satsuma, has made his peace with the old governing religious family, of whom Stotsbashi, the late Tycoon, is the head.

AUSTRALIA.

We have telegraphic news from Australia to the 4th inst. The Parliament of Victoria was prorogued on Dec. 28, the Macpherson Ministry having defeated the attempts of the Opposition to eject them. A land bill has been passed giving squatters a ten-years' tenure.

The *Melbourne Argus* announces that the bill for the abolition of State aid to religion, and that providing for the payment of members of Parliament, were rejected by the Victorian Legislative Council by large majorities.

The harvest prospects of the colony were very good. The papers are full of the arrival of the flying squadron, and the festivities which took place on the occasion. The squadron sailed from Sydney on Dec. 26.

NEW ZEALAND.

The rebellion was reported to be dying out. It was expected that Te Kooti, wounded and deserted by his followers, would soon be captured.

COUNTRY NEWS.

Two farmers were inspecting a sand-pit at Bucklesham, in Suffolk, when it fell in, and they were killed.

Mr. Waters has retired from the contest at Mallow. The remaining candidates are Colonel Knox and Mr. Munster.

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board have resolved to construct a new dock, accommodation for steamers being urgently required on the Lancashire side of the river.

A national show of poultry and pigeons, in which over 1000 specimens were exhibited, was held on Monday, at the Exhibition palace, Dublin. The prizes were in value upwards of £200.

A fire broke out, on Tuesday morning, in one of a group of caravans stationed near the centre of the town of Birmingham, destroying the vehicle and its occupants—a jackal and a racoon.

The Birmingham Town Council has determined to petition Parliament to repeal the section of the Municipal Corporations Act requiring a property or rat qualification for municipal candidates.

A meeting of the leading agriculturists of Cambridgeshire was held last Saturday, at the Lion Hotel, at Cambridge, for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps for the foundation of a chamber of agriculture for Cambridgeshire.

At the last meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, Mr. Lockyer intimated that the great refractor of twenty-five inches aperture will be erected next month in the observatory prepared for it at Gateshead.

A circular from Dublin Castle to the magistrates of petty sessions throughout Ireland orders "that no person concerned in editing a newspaper shall be eligible to fill the office of clerk of petty sessions."

We learn from the *Sheffield Independent* that the late Mr. Samuel Bailey, having no near relations, has bequeathed to the trustees of that town, of which he was an inhabitant, the sum of £50,000, to be applicable to the general purposes of the trust.

On Thursday week a breakfast was given at Diss in honour of Sir E. C. Kerrison, who has undertaken to hunt, at his own cost, the country of which Diss is the centre. The breakfast was attended by 140 gentlemen, and Sir A. Shafto Adair presided.

The Executive of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Lancashire, Cheshire, and North Wales have issued a circular to their employers, intimating that on and after the first Monday in April they will commence working only eight hours per day.

The new Church of St. Barnabas, Upper Sheriff-street, Dublin, was consecrated on Monday by the Archbishop of Dublin, in presence of a large congregation. The church, which is erected on a site granted by Mr. Charles Gausson, cost £5000, the funds being supplied from a bequest by the late Miss Shannon, of Rathmines.

Mr. Anthony Trollope lectured at Hull, on Monday evening, upon "Fiction." The object of the lecturer was to demonstrate the rationality of the amusement of novel-reading. The lecturer stated and combated the several objections ordinarily raised against novel-reading, and argued the possibility of its being a healthy as well as a pleasant practice.

A parallel to the catastrophe which occurred recently at Bristol took place at Liverpool on Sunday night. A drunken man entered the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Joseph, near Scotland-yard, and created a disturbance. Some one raised a cry of fire; and a rush was made for the doors, and in the struggle to get out fifteen persons, all adults, were killed, and many others injured.

At the annual dinner of the Edinburgh Border Counties Association, held yesterday week, under the presidency of Lord Jarviswoode, it was intimated that preparations were being made for celebrating the centenary of Sir Walter Scott's birthday, which occurs on Aug. 16, 1871. Letters in reference to this matter were read from a number of eminent men who had been invited to take part in the proceedings.

Mr. White and Mr. Fawcett, the members for Brighton, addressed their constituents on Monday night. Mr. White advocated an increase in the number of landlords in Ireland; and Professor Fawcett, objecting to the Ulster system on economic grounds, praised Mr. George Campbell's scheme. The Professor also protested against political bribery in all its forms, including baronetries. A vote of confidence in both gentlemen was unanimously adopted.

The *Scotsman* states that the late Miss Amelia Grant Morison, 6, Chalmers-street, has left the following legacies by her settlement—viz., to the Edinburgh National Bible Society, £50; Indigent Gentlewomen's Fund, £100; Ladies' Highland Association, £100; and to the Committees of the Free Church, for the Ministers' Sustentation Fund, £300; Schoolmasters' Sustentation Fund, £100; Foreign Mission, £200; Home Mission, £200; Conversion of the Jews, £100; and Colonial Mission, £100.

Three daughters of Mr. Steedman, of Kinross, have been drowned in Lochleven. One of the young ladies had ventured too far on the ice on the loch in order to rescue a dog which had fallen in. The ice broke and she sank. One of her sisters, who hastened to her assistance, also fell in. The third, in trying to save her two sisters, likewise sank, and before aid could be obtained all three were drowned. The dog came ashore safe. The young ladies were aged from nineteen to twenty-three years, and two of them were about to be married.

Mr. Stansfeld and Colonel Akroyd spoke on Tuesday night at Halifax. The Secretary of the Treasury defended the economies which had been effected by the Government, declaring that they added to the efficiency of the public service as well as afforded relief to the taxpayers. He predicted that the Irish land bill, although not confined to mere questions of compensation, would be found to be neither subversive of the relations between landlord and tenant nor a measure of agrarian confiscation. With regard to education, the Government were quite prepared to meet whatever expense might be necessary to secure a thoroughly national system. Various questions, principally upon matters of local interest, were put to both hon. members, and a vote of confidence brought the proceedings to a close.

The disturbances at the Thorncliffe Collieries, near Sheffield, which have been disgracefully allowed to go on for some time, culminated yesterday week in an organised attack of the unionists on the non-unionists and their houses and furniture. The latter was destroyed, houses were fired, and there was disorder everywhere. The police were unable to cope with the rioters. A riot was again attempted on Saturday, but it was easily quelled.

A special general meeting of the General Assembly of the Irish Presbyterian Church met, on Tuesday, in Belfast, to consider the financial position of the body in the altered circumstances brought about by the Irish Church Act. The proceedings lasted several days. The Chief Secretary for Ireland has intimated to the Assembly that, understanding the Presbyterian bodies no longer required the renewal of the Regium Donum, the Government did not intend placing it in the next Estimates. The reading of the letter was followed by a warm debate on the subject.

Dr. A. Crum-Brown, Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, gave a lecture, on Tuesday, in Queen-street Hall, under the auspices of the Philosophical Institution. The lecture was on "Chemical Constitution," and dealt with the difference between composition and constitution, the various opinions held with reference to chemical constitution, the atomic theory and atomicity, chemical polarity, the relations of chemical constitutions to physical characters and to physiological properties, such as taste and poisonous action. The lecturer illustrated his subject by diagrams and a series of beautiful experiments, which were witnessed with many expressions of satisfaction by a crowded audience.

A large tenant-right gathering took place, on Monday, at Larne, in the county of Antrim. The principal resolution repudiated the idea of infringing on the rights of proprietors, but demanded that tenants, if deprived of their occupancy, should be compensated for those improvements which enhanced the letting value of the land.—Mr. Butt has explained at great length his views on Irish tenant right. He demands continuous occupancy at a fair rent, with power to a tenant to sell the good-will.—A Fenian mob broke in upon the tenant-right meeting called at Dungarvon, on Tuesday, and compelled speakers and hearers to adjourn to the Courthouse, where, under protection of the police, resolutions were passed in favour of "fixity of tenure with periodical re-valuations."—A circumstance illustrative of the state of society in Tipperary has been reported. Some property belonging to a tenant farmer, seized under a decree for rent, was offered for sale a few days ago; but, though there were over 300 persons present, not a single bid was made, and the attempt to sell proved abortive. It is stated, by way of explanation, that previous to the auction placards were posted up calling on the people to respect the "tenant right" of the person against whom the decree had been obtained.

PRINCE ALFRED AT HONG-KONG.

The progress of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh in his voyages and travels amongst the Asiatic provinces and dependencies of Queen Victoria's great empire, and his passing visits to those of China and Japan, has been recorded, from time to time, during the last two months. He arrived at Calcutta on the 22nd ult., and was there received with all due honours by the Earl of Mayo, Governor-General of India; Lord Napier, Governor of Madras; and Sir Seymour Fitzgerald, Governor of Bombay. The *Galatea*, his own frigate, which brought him up the Hooghly, was regarded with great interest by the English and native people of Calcutta. She had left Singapore on the 2nd ult. The preceding month, between that date and Nov. 3, when the Prince arrived at Hong-Kong, was partly occupied with a trip to the Chinese metropolis, Peking. But he remained at Hong-Kong till the 16th of that month, and attended several public entertainments, besides laying the foundation-stone of the new choir of St. John's Cathedral, and formally opening the new City Hall. We have engraved two illustrations, from photographs by Mr. J. Thomson, of the scenes at Hong-Kong when his Royal Highness arrived there. The first shows his landing at Peddar's Wharf, where he was received by the Governor, Sir Richard Graves Macdonnell, and by Lady Macdonnell, with the members of the Legislative Council, the colonial officials, and the officers of the garrison. This illustration comprises a view of part of the harbour, with the shipping at anchor, and the mountains of that island in the background. Our second Engraving represents the front of the Hong-Kong Club, in the Queen's-road, illuminated with Chinese lanterns, on the festive night after the Prince's arrival in that city. We shall give an illustration, next week, of the sojourn of his Royal Highness at Penang.

GREBE-SHOOTING ON THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

The Lake of Geneva is the resort of great numbers of that species of diving bird called the Tippet Grebe, or Crested Ducker, *Podiceps Cristatus*, whose skin, with its beautiful silky plumage, is in much request for the material of muffs and trimming of warm pelisses. It is a large bird, the male measuring 24 in. in length, with a long slender neck, which is adorned with a ruff or tippet, dark brown, like the tufted crest upon the head; the back and wings are greyish brown; the rest of the plumage is white. The tail is a mere tuft of soft downy feathers. The crests and ruffs are grown in spring, but disappear in the autumn of each year. We are furnished by a correspondent at Geneva with the sketch we have engraved, showing the manner in which these birds are pursued and killed. He writes the following account of it:—

"The grebe is never seen on the lake before November, and then he is on his way to the Italian lakes. We have very good shooting in November and December; hardly any in January; but February, March, and April are the best months. An old sportsman told me last night that February is the best of all. The grebe are often found in what I may call deep water—that is, about a mile from the shore. In bad weather they are often seen under the bridges of Geneva, where they are shot from the end of the break-water or from the bridges. The value of a good grebe for making ladies' muffs is from 8s. to 10s., and many boatmen earn enough in the winter to keep their wives and children during the rest of the year."

"A word must be said about the tools for grebe-shooting. The first thing, of course, is a good strong boat, which should be worked by a screw. This sport requires, secondly, a good duck-gun and two or three good sportsmen's guns, such as are used by English gamekeepers. All the guns must be charged and ready for business before you start, and you must see that your ammunition and all other parts of your equipment are in working order. Any good boat with a screw can be converted into a grebe-shooting boat by merely placing a board about two feet high to conceal the persons in the boat. In the centre of this board a hole is cut to let out the muzzle of the heavy gun or canardier. The boat ought to be painted as near as possible the colour of the water. If you start in a red painted boat, you have a poor chance of getting within a mile of a covey of grebe. The ordinary grebe canardier weighs about 23 lb. or 30 lb., and is worked on a swivel."

"Now, let us fancy a fine, clear, sunshiny February morning. Everybody is up and has breakfasted before daylight, and all are bent on a good day's sport. The lake boatman, whom you have engaged to turn the screw, sees that everything is in order, and away you go. Do not forget a good spy-glass; it enables you to see the coveys at a distance, when ordinary eyes cannot discern them. On perceiving a covey, the first order of the day is "Silence." Row on, or rather screw on, to within a hundred yards of the surface. In the mean time, by the aid of your screw and a pair of oars, you are near about where you last saw them, and where the heads will soon be above water. All three of you ready to let fly with your small-arms. If at any time you get near enough to use your small-arms whilst the grebe is on the surface, always fire at the head. Firing at the body of a grebe has no more effect than a shot from a child's pop-gun would have on the skin of an elephant."

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN CHINA.



LANDING OF THE PRINCE AT HONG-KONG.



THE HONG-KONG CLUB ILLUMINATED.



SHOOTING GREBE ON THE LAKE OF GENEVA.

BIRTHS.

On the 23rd inst., at St. Albans House, Edgbaston, Birmingham, the wife of Charles Samuel Hawkes, Esq., of a son.
On Nov. 27, 1869, at Ballarat, Victoria, the wife of William Henry Barnard, Esq., of a son.
On the 3rd inst., at Pera, Constantinople, the wife of Hingston Harvey, Esq., solicitor, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 26th inst., at St. Jude's, Southsea, by the Rev. Robert William Everett, brother of the bridegroom, assisted by the Rev. Joseph Blake, Vicar of St. Jude's, William Everett, Esq., 33rd (Duke of Wellington's) Regiment, younger son of the Rev. Thomas Ellis Everett, and grandson of the late William Everett, of Chase Side House, Enfield, to Maria Georgina, youngest daughter of Pietro Quattano, of Calogeras, of Corfu, Doctor of Law. No cards.

DEATHS.

On the 18th inst., Peter Ainsworth, Esq., of Smithills Hall, Lancashire, aged 79.
On the 21st inst., at Portsawet Rectory, Caroline, the beloved wife of the Rev. Freke Lewis, daughter of the late T. B. Rous, Esq., of Courtyrall, Glamorganshire.
On the 21st inst., at 25, Alexandra-terrace, Rock Ferry, Cheshire, Hilda Beatrice, the beloved daughter of Captain Shanks, Royal Marines Light Infantry.
On the 22nd inst., at Leamington, Gertrude, widow of the late Charles Washington Lovegrove, Esq., in the 70th year of her age.
On the 23rd inst., at Aberdun, Carnarvonshire, Robert Lloyd Jones Parry, Esq., J.P., and Deputy Lieutenant of the county of Carnarvon, eldest son of the late T. P. Jones Parry, Esq., of Llwyn Onn, Denbighshire, aged 53.
On the 22nd inst., at Blakebrook House, Kidderminster, Hannah, the wife of John Humphries, Esq., aged 34. Friends will please accept this intimation.
On the 23rd inst., Mr. James Tidmarsh, of Castle-street, Holborn, and Claremont-terrace, Hampstead, aged 69 years. Friends will kindly accept this intimation.

* * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, and Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 5.

SUNDAY, Jan. 30.—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. King Charles I. beheaded, 1649. King George III. died, 1820. Divine service: St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.15 a.m.; the Rev. John Evans, Prebendary; 3.0 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Hesse; special evening service, 7 p.m., the Bishop of Rochester. Chapel Royal, Savoy, 11.30 a.m., the Rev. W. H. Brookfield, M.A., Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen; 7.0 p.m., the Rev. G. F. Maclear, B.D., Head Master of King's College School. Chapel Royal, St. James's, morning, the Rev. Francis Garden, the Sub-Dean.
MONDAY, 31.—The Great Eastern launched in the Thames, 1838. Hilary Term ends. New moon, 3.41 p.m.; eclipse of the sun (invisible in England). Meetings: London Institution Lecture, 4 p.m. (Mr. Bloxam on Chemistry); Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.; Royal Institute of British Architects, 8 p.m.; Royal United Service Institution, 8.30 p.m. (Mr. M'Grigor Croft, on the Fish-Tail Rudder; Captain Petersen, on his Life-Boat.)
TUESDAY, Feb. 1.—Commencement of the French revolutionary war with Great Britain, 1793. Meetings: Syro-Egyptian Society, 7.30; Civil Engineers' Institution, 8 p.m.; Anthropological Society, 8 p.m.; King's College, London, 8 p.m. (Professor Thorold Rogers, on Louis XI.); Royal Institution Lecture, 3 p.m. (Professor Humphry on the Face and Chest.)
WEDNESDAY, 2.—Purification of the Virgin Mary. Candlemas Day. Meetings: Royal Agricultural Society, noon; Royal Society of Literature, 4.30 p.m.; Pharmaceutical Society, 8 p.m.; Society of Arts, 8 p.m. (Captain O'Hea on Recent Improvements in Small-Arms.)
THURSDAY, 3.—Frost fair on the Thames, 1684 and 1814. Meetings: London Institution Lecture, 7.30 p.m. (Mr. Macfarren on Music); Royal Academy Lecture, 8 p.m. (Mr. Cope on Painting); Artists and Amateurs, 8 p.m.; Linnean and Chemical Societies, 8 p.m.; Antiquaries' and Royal Societies, 8.30 p.m.; Royal Institution Lecture, 3 p.m. (Professor Odling on Vegetable Products.)
FRIDAY, 4.—Jefferson Davis elected President of the Southern Confederate States of North America, 1861. Meetings: Royal Archaeological Institute, 4 p.m.; Geologists' Association, 8 p.m.; Philological Society, 8.15 p.m.; Royal United Service Institution, 3 p.m. (Mr. Lord on Travelling and Campaigning); Royal Institution, 8 p.m. (Professor Ruskin on Verona.)
SATURDAY, 5.—The Order of the Knights of St. Patrick instituted by King George III., 1783. Meetings: Society of Schoolmasters, 2 p.m.; Royal Horticultural Society (promenade), 2.30 p.m.; Royal Institution Lecture, 3 p.m. (Mr. R. Scott on Meteorology.)

TIMES OF HIGH WATER AT LONDON BRIDGE FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 5.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m	h m
1 4	2 20	3 14	4 10	5 10	6 10	7 10

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE NEW OBSERVATORY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.
Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY.	DAILY MEANS OF				THERMOM.		WIND.		General Direction.	Movement in 24 hours at 10 a.m. next morning.	Rain in 24 hours. Read at 10 a.m. next morning.
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Minimum.	Maximum.	Direction.	Force.			
Jan. 19	30.493	34.9	28.1	78	9	31.2	37.0	NE. ENE.	529	.000	
20	30.363	32.3	29.5	90	10	31.0	33.3	ENE. NK.	420	.000	
21	30.302	32.1	26.6	82	9	30.2	34.1	NNE.	246	.000	
22	30.379	34.8	27.0	76	9	30.9	37.2	NNE. N.	241	.000	
23	30.300	32.1	26.6	82	9	30.2	34.1	NNE.	412	.000	
24	30.374	36.2	31.2	84	7	33.3	40.0	NE. ENE.	236	.005	
25	30.438	33.9	24.1	70	3	32.8	37.9	NE. ENE.	223	.000	

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten a.m.:

Barometer (in inches) corrected	30.521	30.415	30.317	30.382	30.381	30.381	30.417
Temperature of Air	36.2	32.6	32.6	34.0	33.6	35.9	36.5
Temperature of Evaporation	33.2	32.0	32.0	32.1	32.7	35.0	34.5
Direction of Wind	NE.	ENE.	NNE.	NNE.	N.	N.	NE.

THE SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
The WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES IS NOW OPEN, 5, Pall-mall East. Ten till Five. Admission, 1s. Gas on dark days.
WILLIAM CALLOW, Secretary.

GENERAL EXHIBITION OF WATER-COLOUR DRAWINGS, DUDLEY GALLERY, EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY. The SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION will open on MONDAY, FEB. 7.
GEORGE L. HALL, Hon. Sec.

INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.
FOURTH WINTER EXHIBITION OF SKETCHES AND STUDIES. NOW OPEN Daily from Nine till Six. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. Gallery, 53, Pall-mall.
JAMES FAHEY, Secretary.

GUSTAVE DORE.—DORE GALLERY, 35, New Bond-street.—EXHIBITION OF PICTURES, including ROSSINI, TITANIA, FRANCESCA DE RIMINI, &c. Daily, at the New Gallery, from Ten till Five. Gas at dusk. Admission, 1s.

SATURDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Subscription and Sofa Stalls for Seven Concerts, £1 10, Saturday Afternoon, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12. On SATURDAY, FEB. 5, M.M. Joachim, Chas. Hallé, Ries, Straus, Zerbini, and Piatti will appear. Vocalist, Miss Edith Wynne. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Tickets and Programmes at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Second Appearance of Herr JOACHIM on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, JAN. 31, when the Programme will include Beethoven's Quartet in E Flat, Op. 74, for Strings; Beethoven's Trio in C Minor, for Piano, Violin, and Violoncello; Mendelssohn's Fantasia in F Sharp Minor, for Piano alone; and Bach's Chaconne, for Violin alone. Executants—M.M. Pauer, Joachim, L. Ries, Straus, and Piatti. Vocalist—Miss Blanche Cote. Sofa Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Programmes and Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street.

SCIENCE FOR WOMEN.—A Course will be Commenced at the CITY OF LONDON COLLEGE, 72, Leadenhall-street, on FEB. 3, at Half-past Four p.m., by T. MAXWELL, Esq., B.Sc. Apply to the Secretary.

MR. CHARLES DICKENS'S FAREWELL READINGS, in ST. JAMES'S HALL.—On TUESDAY NEXT, FEB. 1, Boots at the Holly Tree Inn, Sikes and Nancy (from "Oliver Twist"), and Mrs. Gamp. Tuesday, Feb. 8, the Story of Little Dorcy and Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party (from "Pickwick"). Tuesday, Feb. 15, Boots at the Holly Tree Inn, Sikes and Nancy (from "Oliver Twist"), and Mrs. Gamp (last time). Tuesday, Feb. 22, Nicholas Nickleby (at Mr. Squeers's school, last time) and Mr. Chops, the Dwarf (last time). Tuesday, March 1, David Copperfield (last time) and the Trial from Pickwick. Tuesday, March 8, Boots at the Holly Tree Inn (last time), Sikes and Nancy (from "Oliver Twist") last time, and Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party (from "Pickwick") last time. Tuesday, March 15, Final Farewell Reading, the Christmas Carol (last time) and the Trial from Pickwick (last time). Commence at Eight o'clock. Sofa Stalls, 7s.; Stalls, 5s.; Balcony, 3s.; Admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, No. 50, New Bond-street.

MR. W. H. HOLMES'S PIANOFORTE PUPILS' CONCERT, assisted by eminent Professors (by kind Permission), at Lady Freemantle's, FEB. 10, at Two o'clock. Programmes of Mr. W. H. Holmes, 36, Beaumont-street, Marylebone.

PROFESSOR TENNANT, F.G.S., will Continue a Course of LECTURES on MINERALOGY Applied to GEOLOGY and the ARTS, at KING'S COLLEGE, London, on WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY Mornings, at Nine o'clock, during February and March, commencing Jan. 28. Fee, £1 1s. A Course of Lectures on Mineralogy and Geology will also be delivered on Thursday Evenings, at Eight o'clock. These begin Jan. 27, and will be continued to Easter. Fee, £1 1s. Professor Tennant gives Private Instruction in Mineralogy and Geology, illustrated by a large number of Specimens, at his residence, 149, Strand, W.C.

HAMLET.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place. On FRIDAY EVENING NEXT, FEB. 4, 1870, Shakespeare's Tragedy of HAMLET, as arranged in a selection of Scenes for Reading by Mr. J. M. BELLEW, with the Characters personated, and the Play illustrated with novel and complete scenery by Messrs. Grieve, Calcott, and O'Connor, and O'Connor, and O'Connor. Act 1. Norman Guard-Chamber, with Platform before the Castle. Painted by Mr. O'Connor. Scene 2. The King's Hall of Audience. By Mr. O'Connor. Scene 3. Outer Court, with Castle Keep. Royal Chapel, and Distant View of the Coast of Norway. By Mr. O'Connor. Act 2 and Act 3. Room of State and Stage for the Court Play. Act 3, Scene 4. The Queen's Vaulted Chamber, with Oratory. Painted by Mr. Grieve. Act 5, Scene 1. Quadrangular Cloister and Churchyard, adjoining an ancient Danish Church. By Mr. Callcott. Dresses by Mr. S. May. Machinist, Mr. Warton. Music composed and arranged by Mr. Fagan. Conductor, Mr. F. Stanislaus.

MR. J. M. BELLEW'S HAMLET.—THE FIRST READING on FRIDAY EVENING NEXT, FEB. 4, commencing at Eight o'clock, and terminating at Half-past Ten. The new Office is now open. Stalls, 5s.; Balcony Stalls, 3s.; Body of the Hall, 2s.; Admission, 1s.—G. REEVES SMITH, Manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—Double Attractions.—Monday to Friday.—The really Comic Fantomime, DICK WHITTINGTON, Daily, except Saturday.—The Great Success, especially adapted for Children.—Roar of Laughter, and Rounds of Applause.—Fitzwarren (the City Merchant), Mr. J. Russell; Alice (the daughter), Miss Thirlwall; Dick Whittington, Miss Caroline Parkes; Tommy Snail (the idle Apprentice), Mr. J. H. Friend; Emperor of Morocco, Mr. W. L. Branscombe. 500 Performers in all, including Middle, Manlie, Corps de Ballet, &c. The Fantomime at 2.30. At 12 the American Skaters (who also appear in the Fantomime); and the Imperial Japanese Troupe, with Little All Right and all the extraordinary Performers of the Troupe. The Tob and Jar Feast, the great Ladder Balance, the laughable Fox Screen Act, and the Butterfly Trick, should be seen by everybody. Palace brilliantly illuminated for Promenade till Seven each Evening. Admission, Monday to Friday, One Shilling, or by Guinea Season Tickets. The February Tickets, admitting to Jan. 31, 1871 (thus including all the great Fêtes and attractive days of the entire season), may now be had at all Palace Entrances, Exeter Hall, and all Agents. Saturday, Concert and Promenade, Half a Crown. Fine-Arts Courts, Picture Gallery, Tropical Plants and Trees, and the thousand other delights of the Winter Garden of the World.—Note. The Hairless Blue Horse and the Three-Legged Filly only remain a few days longer.

SEE "PUNCH" on the CRYSTAL PALACE CLOWN, FRED. EVANS. "The Crystal Palace Clown is not only a very surprising leaper and an excellent tumbler—his tumbling has, as all good clowns' tumbling should have, humour, character, and meaning in it; but he understands that Clown is a great acting part, and he acts as Mr. Punch has not seen it acted since his dear old friend, Joey Grimaldi."—Punch, Jan. 22.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—E. T. Smith's PANTOMIME at 2.30 daily, except Saturday. "In short, the managers of the Crystal Palace Pantomime have drawn two trumps—in their Clown, Mr. Evans, and their Dick Whittington, Miss Caroline Parkes; and Mr. Punch is obliged to pay his debt of honest acknowledgment for pleasure received."—Punch, Jan. 22.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—IMPERIAL JAPANESE TROUPE, MONDAY TO FRIDAY NEXT, as well as the Clever and Graceful American Skaters and the Great Fantomime. No extra charge. One Shilling, as usual.

MR. and Mrs. GERMAN REED (Last Season) in AGES AGO, with Miss Fanny Holland, Mr. E. Connell, and Mr. Arthur Cecil; and COX AND BOX (23rd time). Every Evening, except Saturday, at Eight; Thursday and Saturday, at Three. ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street. Admission, 1s., 2s., 3s., and 5s.—Morning Representations every Thursday and Saturday, at Three.

HAMILTON'S AMERICA AS IT IS, Pictorial, Musical, and Vocal, Every Evening at Eight; Wednesdays and Saturdays at Three. Admission, 2s., 1s., and 6d. Concert Hall, AGRICULTURAL HALL, Islington.

THE ORIGINAL COMPANY OF CHRISTY MINSTRELS that came to this country in 1857 has been permanently located at the ST. JAMES'S HALL, London, for some years past. This company still retains in its numbers all the original members (now surviving) who first introduced the entertainment into England in 1857. THE NEVER PERFORM OUT OF LONDON under any circumstances whatsoever. No other Minstrel Troupe in existence possesses a single individual member of this world-famed band. The performances of the Original Christy Minstrels are exclusively confined to the St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, all the year round. Proprietors, Messrs. G. W. Moore and Frederick Burgess. General Manager, Mr. FREDERICK BURGESS.

THE CHRISTY MINSTRELS' CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR'S FESTIVAL, at ST. JAMES'S HALL, has again proved the greatest and most sterling success of the season. In the week commencing Boxing Day, Dec. 27, terminating Saturday, Jan. 1, upwards of thirty-nine Thousand Persons paid for admission to the series of Twelve Performances given in that week. Even with this enormous return some thousands were turned away, owing to the crowded state of the Hall. For verification of this fact see "Times," "Telegraph," "Standard," "Daily News," "Advertiser," "Morning Post," "Lloyd's," "Weekly Times," "Reynolds's," "Sunday Times," and "Weekly Dispatch."

ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly.—EVERY NIGHT at Eight; Wednesdays and Saturdays, Three and Eight. All the Year Round. The Charming Entertainment of the Original and only recognised CHRISTY MINSTRELS, which has attracted densely crowded audiences to this Hall eight, and often ten, times in each week for five consecutive years, an instance of popularity all the more remarkable inasmuch as the company is now performing every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, at Two o'clock. Stage Manager, Mr. Edward Stirling. Doors open at Half-past Six, commence at Seven. Box-Office open from Ten till Five Daily.—On Monday, Feb. 28, will be revived the Irish Romantic Drama of PEEP O' DAY.

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. B. Chatterton.—Positively the Last Four Weeks of the Pantomime.—On MONDAY will be performed the Drury Lane Comic Christmas Annual, entitled BEAUTY AND THE BEAST; or, Harlequin and Old Mother Bunch. Written by E. L. Blanchard; with extensive scenery and elaborate effects by William Beverley. Preceded by, each Evening, a New Farce, entitled I'M NOT MYSELF AT ALL.—On TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, will be performed the PANTOMIME EVERY WEDNESDAY and SATURDAY, at Two o'clock. Stage Manager, Mr. Edward Stirling. Doors open at Half-past Six, commence at Seven. Box-Office open from Ten till Five Daily.—On Monday, Feb. 28, will be revived the Irish Romantic Drama of PEEP O' DAY.

THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—Last Nights of NEW MEN and OLD AGES. Great Success of THE FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS.

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. John Wood.—Every Evening, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER—Misses Herbert, Henrade, Larkin, and Sallie Turner; Messrs. Mark Smith, Barton Hill, J. G. Shore, A. W. Young, Gaston Murray, and Lionel Brough. After which, New Burlesque LA BELLE SAUVAGE—Mrs. John Wood. To conclude with A HAPPY PAIR.

ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE AND CIRCUS, Holborn. The present Entertainment is universally conceded to be the best ever given in this elegant building. Entirely free from coarseness or vulgarity, and in every respect irreproachable. Stupendous Combination. SCENES in the ARENA, by the largest and most brilliant company of Equestrians and Gymnasts ever brought together; and the exquisite Melodics of the MATTHEWS BROTHERS' TROUPE OF ORIGINAL CHRISTY MINSTRELS. On Monday, first appearance of the wonderful PERFORMING GOAT, and other novelties. Every Evening at Half past Seven.

ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE AND CIRCUS, Holborn. Glorious reception of Matthews Brothers' Troupe of Original Christy Minstrels, retaining nearly all the original members, together with the great Band, forty-three performers, who substantiated their claim to originality in an action, of which we were privileged to witness the Queen in the Queen's Ball Court, Westminster Hall, February, 1869. Entertainment stands unrivalled. The great Comedians, Harry and William Matthews, double quartet, all stars, full chorus, &c.

ROYAL AMPHITHEATRE AND CIRCUS, Holborn. Pourrir the Terrific, in his awe-inspiring flights, at every Morning and Evening Performance. For grace, agility, and fearlessness this great artist stands unrivalled.

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THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON: SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 1870.

Everybody remembers Dr. Blimber's party on breaking-up day, and how that distinguished instructor welcomed his young friends with expressions of surprise, as if seeing them there was the very last thing that he had expected. We now learn that his Holiness the Pope intends to play the same harmless comedy. The supplication in favour of the Infallibility dogma is in active progress, and every influence which can be brought to bear upon the Fathers is used to obtain their signatures. But the Pope alone, of all men in Rome, knows nothing about it. He has no idea that such a document is in preparation. When it is presented to him by his devoted prelates, he is to say, "Bless me, a supplication!" after the manner of Dr. Blimber. "There is a form in these things, Madam; there is a form," as Miss Skeggs or Lady Blarney observes. But such an unaffected surprise is a poor exchange for the sudden burst of enthusiasm which was to seize the majority of the Council, and send the Fathers upon their knees, tearfully to implore the instant promulgation of the dogma. However, even Popes cannot have all they want, and, like fallible persons, must learn to be content with what they can get.

But if the Pope is to be surprised when he is presented with the supplication that he will do what he chiefly desires to do, is that surprise to be also manifested when he receives the counter-petition, which is being signed by a great number of prelates, though not a numerical majority, and which expresses the sentiment of the most enlightened and able portion of the Council? Here, indeed, there seems an occasion for a legitimate manifestation of astonishment, seeing that these Fathers directly confront the situation, and endeavour to render the Council little more than a splendid ecclesiastical gathering. In effect, these protestants set themselves against the one object of the assembly. It was not convoked to re-enunciate a number of things on which the Church has long made its mind up, and so has the world; but it was intended to procure a declaration that the Pope possesses miraculous power. This was an object worthy of a Council. This was something for which to gather the faithful from all corners of the earth. Tenable or untenable, the assumption was to be a grand one. Unless it be advanced in some form, the Bishops will have a right to say that they have been played with, and that they ought not to have been brought together merely to glorify the venerable Pope's love of display. But the protesting prelates would make the Council little more than a court for the re-registration of documents which could have been just as well dealt with by the Pope's own secretaries. Therefore, if his Holiness should think fit to be very much surprised indeed, we cannot say that the demonstration will be an unfit one.

We suppose that we shall not henceforth hear much of the misrepresentations of English correspondents in regard to the proceedings of the Council, nor will that Bishop who declared that he and his friends found much diversion in reading the absurd and contradictory statements of Protestants, who could by no possibility know what they were writing about, derive any great amusement from the same source in future. It has been shown that the English correspondents were perfectly well informed, and that they did very right in refusing to believe the oily assurances that any little difficulties were mere matter of detail, and that the most complete harmony prevailed throughout the whole Council. The coolness and imposing air with which dignified ecclesiastics made such statements might almost have justified a belief that in the end some kind of amicable compromise would at least be attained; but the scepticism of our journalists was wholesome, and has been abundantly vindicated. In the Council, where such absolute harmony prevailed, there are probably three hundred Bishops who will have nothing to do with the object for which the Assembly was convened. These are no rumours, now, but signatures attached to an exceedingly plain form of words, which will be kept in the archives of the Church for all time; or if not, it does not matter, for they are already history.

It is constantly asserted by the organs of the Romish Church that Protestants have nothing to do with the Council, and that it is an impertinent intrusion to establish the sort of correspondence which we receive. But surely this is absurd. We say nothing of the grand and significant spectacle now presented in Rome, though it is manifest that all civilised persons must take a lively interest in the scene and desire to have the amplest information respecting it. But how is it an intrusion? Has what is going on nothing to do with Protestants? It appears to us that there is not a Protestant State in the world that is not affected by the Papal denunciations. We find the Council flying in the face of all that we consider enlightenment, and solemnly declaring that everyone is in mortal sin who refuses to denounce what the Syllabus denounces. Is it nothing to us that such a doctrine is to be confirmed and forced upon the Catholic subjects of a Protestant State? Is this effort to put them at variance with their rulers a small matter? We think the Protestants have a great deal to say to the Council, and that the preliminary process, which is directed to showing that the assembly is one of discord, and that its decisions are not of authority, is a very desirable one to be performed. That has been shown, not only by correspondents, but by a formal act of the Bishops, and the cause of progress gains by the exposure.

To the dogma itself, whose fate will be fixed, we suppose, at an early date, we may not have much to say. Of course, the declaration which is sought would be an insult to human intellect, and to the Power which has given it. Hitherto, though theoretically it has been held by a portion of the Church, it has not been an article of faith in the sense in which other mysteries are. We own that we should regret to see it promulgated, because all men have or should have a certain sympathy with each form of Christianity; and we should deplore that a religion which, however imperfect, contains much truth, was brought into the contempt which must follow the nunciation of a false and foolish dogma. Its effect will be still further to isolate all the thinkers; and though Rome affects to make light of these, and, indeed, to treat them as heretics—*errati qui putat*—she is not now in a condition to alienate her children. That the ignorant may find a certain spiritual consolation in the dogma, or in a more absurd one, is probable enough; but the ignorant are faithful already, and it is not worth while for their sakes to run the risk of placing a large mass of easygoing Catholics in a hostile attitude. We do not enter into the question between the Pope and his own conscience, and we would by no means affirm disbelief that the venerable priest has brought himself to a faith in his infallibility and in the duty of proclaiming it. If, however, his belief falls at all short of the absolute, and worldly motives mingle in his convictions, it may be well for the Pope-King to think of the state-policy of his act. As a political move, the proclamation of this dogma must be a mistake, but the Pope claims to be judged by a higher tribunal. The affair, looked at which way we will, is untoward, and must be felt so by all who are not dazzled with processions and dazed with church music. Let the dogma be proclaimed, or let something that is equivalent to it in the eyes of the Pope be given out, it will not be the work of the Ecumenical Council, but only the work of the least enlightened portion of it, and therefore the council is branded as a failure. The Church talks of Trent, but has lost the art which made Trent her bulwark for ages.

THE COURT.

The Queen, with Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein and the junior members of the Royal family, continues at Osborne House. Her Majesty has been suffering from a severe attack of neuralgia, but is now, happily, somewhat recovering.

The Prince of Leiningen, Lieut.-General Sir George Buller, G.C.B., and Vice-Admiral Sir James Hope, G.C.B., left Osborne on Wednesday week. The Lord Chancellor and Sir John Simeon had the honour of dining with the Queen.

On the following day her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Christian and Princess Louise, drove in the grounds adjacent to Osborne. The Lord Chancellor left Osborne.

Yesterday week the Queen, accompanied by Princess Christian and Princess Beatrice, drove out.

On Saturday last her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice, drove in the vicinity of the Royal demesne. On Sunday the Queen was unable to leave the house.

On Monday her Majesty suffered less from neuralgia, but was unable to join the Royal family at dinner. Princess Christian, Prince Leopold, and Princess Beatrice walked and drove out. The Duke of Argyll had the hour of dining with the Royal family.

On Tuesday the Queen was able to take a short drive. The members of the Royal family walked out. Prince Christian, attended by Captain the Hon. Charles Eliot, left Osborne for Frogmore. The Duke of Argyll left Osborne.

Princess Louise has honoured Mrs. Thorneycroft with sittings for her bust.

The Countess of Gainsborough has succeeded Lady Churchill as Lady in Waiting, and the Hon. Caroline Cavendish has succeeded the Hon. Harriett Phipps as Maid of Honour in Waiting, to the Queen. Lady Churchill and the Hon. Harriett Phipps remain on a visit at Osborne.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have been entertaining a select circle of guests during the week at Gunton Hall, Norfolk.

The Prince has recovered from the severe attack of influenza which detained his Royal Highness in town last week, and prevented his visit to Lord Fitzhardinge at Berkeley Castle.

The Prince, with his guests, has had some good sport shooting. The Princess takes frequent drives around the neighbourhood of Gunton.

Prince Albert Victor, Prince George, Princess Louise, Princess Victoria, and Princess Maud of Wales are at Gunton Hall with their Royal parents.

PRINCE ARTHUR.

Prince Arthur, attended by Colonel Elphinstone, Lieutenant Pickard, and Lieutenant Fitzroy, arrived at New York yesterday week. His Royal Highness was received by Mr. Thornton, the British Minister, and by Mr. Archibald, the English Consul. The Prince passed the night at the Brevoort Hotel.

On Saturday last his Royal Highness left New York for Washington, where he arrived at five o'clock, and proceeded to the residence of Mr. Thornton. There was no public demonstration; but it is stated that public receptions will be tendered to the Prince, upon his return, at Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

On Monday the Prince was presented to President Grant by Mr. Thornton. His Royal Highness afterwards visited the Senate House.

On Tuesday the Prince visited the Treasury and other departments.

Mr. Belmont, General Dix, and other distinguished citizens of New York have invited the Prince to a ball to be given in honour of his Royal Highness's visit.

The Duke of Cambridge, as Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, held a levée yesterday week at the Horse Guards. About 150 officers attended. His Royal Highness left town, on Monday, on a visit to General Hall, at Six-mile Bottom, near Newmarket.

His Highness Prince Hassan of Egypt has left Claridge's Hotel for Whitley Court.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland have arrived at Northumberland House from Alnwick Castle.

The Duke of Argyll has returned to town to resume his duties at the India Office.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster have left town for Cannes.

Marquis and Marchioness Hamilton arrived in town, last Saturday, from visiting Earl and Countess Howe at Gopsall.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne have left town for Bowood.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lothian have arrived at Lord de Vesci's residence on Carlton House-terrace.

The Earl and Countess of Kimberley have arrived in town from Kimberley Hall, Norfolk.

Earl and Countess Percy left town on Saturday last for Tunbridge Wells.

Countess (Frances) Waldegrave and the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue, M.P., Chief Secretary for Ireland, have arrived at their residence in Carlton-gardens from Dublin. The Countess and the Right Hon. Chichester Fortescue entertained select parties at dinner on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Earl De Grey, the Lord President of the Council, has arrived in town from Yorkshire.

The Earl of Chesterfield arrived in town last Saturday from visiting Lord and Lady Lonsborough at their seat in Yorkshire.

The Earl of Camperdown has returned to town from Scotland.

The Earl of Rosebery has returned to town from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland at Battle Abbey.

The Earl of Harrington and Viscount and Viscountess Petersham have left town for Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire.

Viscountess Combermere has arrived in Belgrave-square from Brighton.

Lord Egerton of Tatton and the Hon. Miss Egerton have arrived in St. James's-square from Tatton Park, Cheshire.

Sir John and Lady Gwendolin Ramsden have left Byram to join the party visiting Mr. C. Sykes at Brantingham Park.

The Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., and Mrs. and the Misses Gladstone have arrived at their family residence on Carlton House-terrace from Hagley Park, Worcestershire. The Premier entertained several members of the Cabinet at dinner on Tuesday.

THE CHURCH.

PREFEMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Baker, E., Curate of Clare Portion, to be Vicar of St. Paul's, Tiverton. Bathurst, Frederick, Vicar of Diddington; Honorary Canon, Ely. Belcher, R. H.; Curate of St. John-the-Baptist, Kensington. Brooke, A. S.; Curate of St. Thomas's, Portman-square. Burland, Charles Isherwood; Vicar of St. Saviour's-on-the-Cliff, Shanklin. Caudwell, Francis; Incumbent of the District of St. Peter, Hoxton. Chalker, A. B.; Chaplain to the Bishop of Carlisle. Chepman, E. W.; Curate of St. Pancras. Edwards, E. C.; Vicar of Speen, near Newbury. Evans, A. E.; Secretary of the South American Missionary Society. Forbes, A. F.; Curate of St. George's, Bloomsbury. Heaton, W. C.; Curate of St. Clement Danes. Irons, William Josiah; Rector of Waddingham, Lincolnshire. Knollys, Erskine William; Curate of St. James's, Piccadilly. Lonsdale, J. G.; Rector of Huntspill, Somerset. Maples, W.; Incumbent of St. Paul's, Great Grimsby. Nicholson, H. L.; Curate of Hanover Church, Regent-street. Owen, Prebendary; Rector of Wonston, Hants. Pelham, Hon. Francis Godolphin; Rector of St. Pancras. Scott, John, Vicar of Wisbeach; Honorary Canon, Ely. Stanbrough, Morris Edgar; Chaplain to Viscount Boyle. Walker, A.; Incumbent of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Loches, Dundee. Waller, C. H.; Incumbent of St. John's Chapel, Hampstead. Williams, William Wynne; Prebendary of Pennynydd in Bangor Cathedral. Woodhouse, Walter Webb; Vicar of Sandown, I.W.

The subscriptions towards the memorial to the late Bishop of Salisbury amount to about £8000.

The Convocation of the province of York will meet for the transaction of business on Feb. 22.

The *Warrington Guardian* announces that Dr. Massingham declines the Bishopric of Sierra Leone.

The Rev. R. Parnell has been presented with a purse containing £155 from his congregation at St. Stephen's Church, North Bow.

The consecration of the Ven. Henry Mackenzie, Rector of South Collingham, and Archdeacon for the county of Nottingham, as Suffragan Bishop of Nottingham, will take place on Wednesday next, in St. Mary's Church.

Dr. Mackarness, the new Bishop of Oxford, was, on Tuesday, consecrated in Westminster Abbey. The ceremony was performed, under a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury, by the Bishops of London, Ely, Rochester, Lichfield, and Salisbury. The Archbishop of Syria, with a retinue of Greek priests, was present.

The parish church of Fundenall, Norfolk, was reopened on the 18th inst., after having been closed for some months past for the purpose of entire restoration. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, and the living is a donative, the impropiator of the tithes being G. D. Berney, Esq., of Morton Hall, who undertook a "restoration" of the chancel.

The Bishop of London began a series of lectures on the "Evidences of Christianity," at Stepney old church, on Monday night. The lecture was considered as introductory, and was brief. The succeeding lectures will be delivered on the seven succeeding Monday evenings, and the working classes are especially invited to attend. The first lecture was attended by a large congregation.

Yesterday week the Bishop of Exeter was presented with an address of welcome from the representatives of the friendly societies of Devon and Cornwall. The address contained 1080 signatures, and fully 2000 persons were present. The right rev. prelate, who was received with much enthusiasm, made a long speech in reply. He urged the importance of education, and warned the working classes that, however much others might advise, the real hard work of such societies must rest with the working men themselves.

Dr. Ellicott, the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, has issued a pastoral to his clergy, in which he touches on various Church topics. He believes that Church discipline and cathedral reform will be amongst the subjects of legislation during the present year. In the Church Discipline Bill there is, he says, much that is very valuable; but whether, "in the critical state in which we now are," Parliament will pass such a measure may be considered extremely doubtful. Speaking of the cathedrals, his Lordship remarks that it is well for those who revere these institutions, and would do all in their power to promote their efficiency, to be forward with sober counsels, and, considering the rapid movements of events, to be timely wise.

Lord Teignmouth presided, on Tuesday, at the opening of the third annual conference of the Yorkshire Church Association, at Wakefield. There was a large attendance of clergy and laity. His Lordship pointed out that the mission of the association is to oppose superstition and infidelity, as caused by the efforts of Romanism on the one hand and the influence of heretical works on the other. The noble Lord regarded the ritual movement as the result of the sensational tendencies of the age, and did not think it was likely to last long. He also vindicated the course pursued by the association in prosecuting Mr. Voysey. Papers were subsequently read and speeches delivered by the Rev. W. R. Morrison, the Rev. G. B. Concanon, the Rev. Canon Crosthwaite, the Dean of Ripon, the Rev. George Hough, the Rev. W. B. Calvert, and others. The conference met again on Wednesday.

THE UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

At Oxford Mr. Charles Alan Fyffe, B.A. late Exhibitioner of Balliol, has been elected to the vacant fellowship in University. Mr. Fyffe was placed in the first class in classics on both the first and second public examinations. There were seventeen candidates.

At Cambridge the next Theological Examination will begin on Tuesday, April 26. The subjects of examination for the Chancellor's Medal for legal studies for the year 1871 are the following:—1. Roman Law: the Law of Obligations and Actions as described and explained in "Gaius's Commentaries," and "Justinian's Institutes," and in "Linley's Introduction to Jurisprudence" (Part II., chap. i. and chap. v.). 2. English Law: "Phillips on Evidence" (Vol. I., chap. viii.), and the cases of "Price v. Lord Torrington" (1 Smith's Leading Cases), and "Higham v. Ridgway" (2 Smith's Leading Cases, with the notes). 3. English History: "Hallam's Constitutional History" (Vols. I. and II., edition of 1863.) 4. International Law: "Story's Conflict of Laws" (chaps. xiv. to xvii., both inclusive, by Redfield, 1865).

The Rectorship of Aberdeen University has been declined by Sir W. Stirling Maxwell because, though the nations were equally

divided between him and Mr. Grant Duff, the majority of the students voted against him.

The Lord Advocate received a deputation from the Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities on Saturday, the spokesmen of which urged the necessity of a comprehensive Government measure dealing with the primary and secondary education of Scotland. The Lord Advocate stated that Government would no doubt consider, before Parliament met, what it was possible to do for Scotland in the coming Session, and make an announcement on the subject at an early day.

Nature announces that the Senate of London University has proposed to establish a Faculty of Science.

Dr. P. M. Duncan, F.R.S., has been elected Professor of Geology to King's College, London; and the Rev. P. W. Sparling has been elected to a mathematical mastership. Mr. Sparling was chosen from 250 candidates.

Mr. Charles Churchill, B.A., of Corpus College, Oxford, has been appointed an assistant master at Shrewsbury.

The head mastership of the Dartford Grammar School, rendered vacant by the preferment of the Rev. Samuel Francis Cresswell, M.A., to the head mastership of Wellsborough School, has been conferred upon the Rev. R. B. Langridge, B.A.

On the 20th inst. David William Tanqueray and James Arthur Davenport were successful candidates at the competitive examination for the foundation scholarships at Bradford College. There were twenty-eight entries.

NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar has been appointed to the command of the division of Guards.

Lord Napier of Magdala will succeed Sir William Mansfield as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India.

The British squadron at Lisbon has gone for a fortnight's cruise off the Portuguese coasts.

The Colonelcy of the 75th Regiment is vacant by the death of General St. John Augustus Clerke, K.H., who had the Peninsular war medal with three clasps. Deceased entered the Army in 1803.

H.M. troop-ship *Euphrates*, with the 82nd Regiment and some time-expired men, numbering in all 1200, from India, arrived at Suez on the 24th inst., and left next day for Alexandria.

The post of Assistant Under-Secretary at the War Office has been suppressed, and Captain Douglas Galton, who has held the appointment some years, has been transferred to the Directorship of Works and Buildings, under Mr. Ayrton.

The reduction, by two companies, of the whole of the regiments on foreign service, from April 1 next, will affect the following corps—viz., 1st (four companies), 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th (four companies), 11th (four companies), 12th, 13th, 14th (four companies), 15th, 18th, 19th (four companies), 20th, 21st (four companies), 24th (four companies), 25th, 26th, 23th, 29th, 31st, 32nd, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 41st, 45th, 48th, 49th, 52nd, 53rd, 55th, 58th, 59th, 60th (six companies), 61st, 62nd, 64th, 69th, 71st, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 92nd, 95th, 96th, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, Rifle Brigade (four companies). The first battalion 16th, 82nd, 93rd, and 102nd, will, of course, on arrival home, be reduced to the home establishment of ten companies. The 66th, 81st, and 89th, under orders for embarkation, will not be augmented on proceeding out. The reductions will leave 156 captains and the same number of lieutenants supernumerary.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

The annual distribution of prizes to the members of the 1st Middlesex Artillery Volunteers was held, on Monday evening, at the Hanover-square Rooms. The prizes were distributed by Miss Creed, the daughter of the Colonel commanding the regiment.

The annual distribution of prizes to members of the 3rd Middlesex took place, yesterday week, in the drill-room at Hampstead. Mrs. Wilkinson presided at the distribution. Subsequently the affairs of the corps and the general prospects of the volunteer army as a whole were discussed.

The annual ball of the West London took place yesterday week, at St. James's Hall, and was in every respect successful. Lord Truro, the Commandant, and most of the officers were present.

The tenth annual presentation of prizes to the members of the 9th Essex Rifle Volunteer Corps was held in the Townhall, Shoreditch, on Wednesday evening. Lieutenant-Colonel Silver, in announcing that Colonel Cochrane, of the 12th Surrey, would present the prizes, stated that, during the past year, the amount earned by the corps in the shape of capitation grant had been £1000, every man of the 600 constituting the battalion having become an extra efficient.

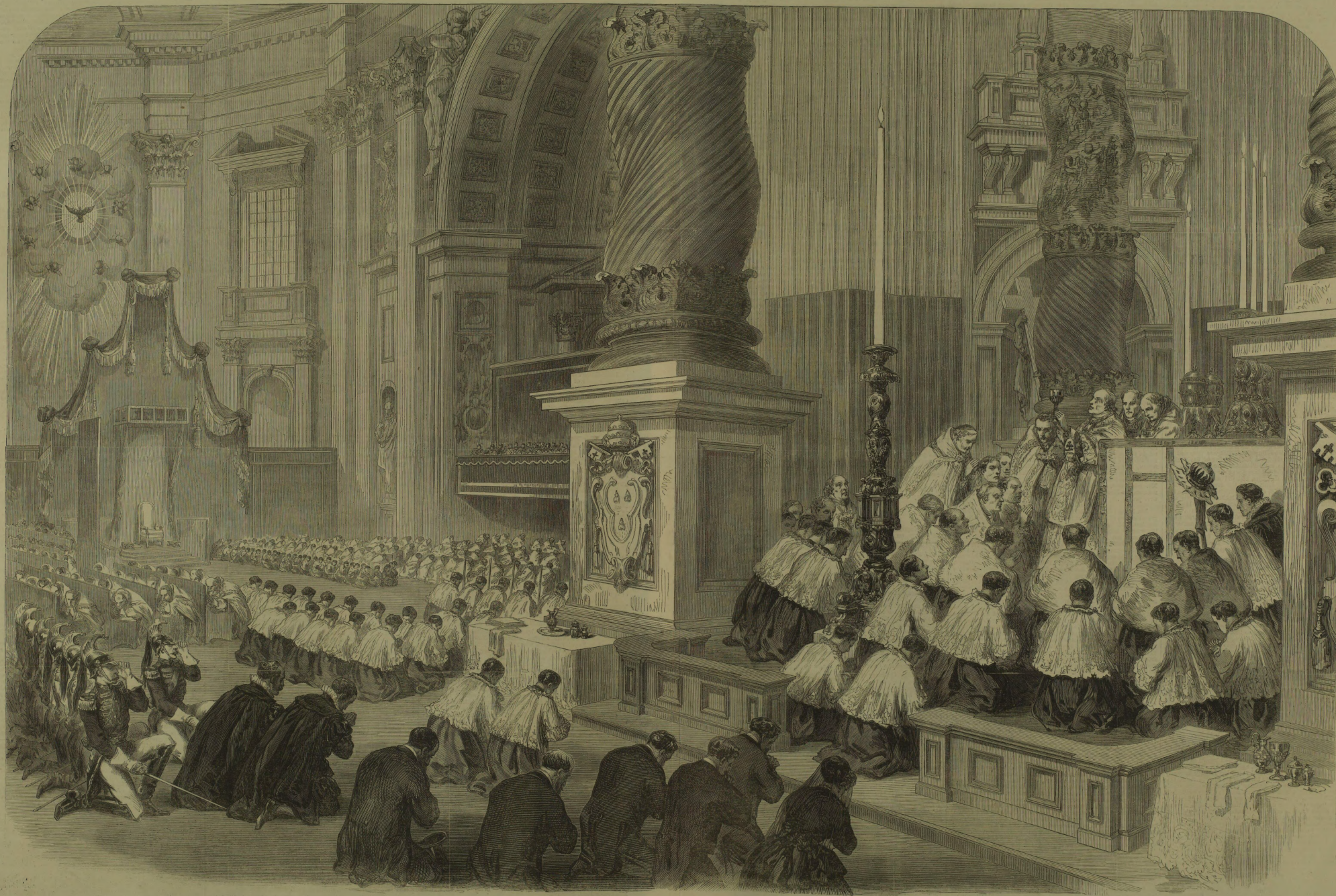
Lord Houghton distributed the prizes won by the Pontefract corps in the Townhall of that town, yesterday week.

The War-Office volunteer scheme was formally condemned, yesterday week, by a meeting of the officers of the 1st Administrative Warwickshire Battalion and the Consolidated Battalion.—Colonel Acland, M.P., speaking at a meeting of the Devon Volunteer Association, held at Exeter, on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Earl of Devon, said it was the duty of the Government to regulate the operations of the force and to provide for its necessary expenses. He approved the proposal to place volunteer corps under the authority of Generals of districts.—Mr. Cardwell's proposals were considered, on Tuesday, at a meeting of the volunteer officers of Lancashire. The scheme, as a whole, was condemned; and among the resolutions passed was one affirming the desirableness of increasing the capitation grant without "seriously altering" the present system.—A conference of volunteer artillery, rifle, and engineer officers of Northumberland and Durham was held at Newcastle, last Saturday, for the purpose of considering the suggestion of the Secretary of State for War with respect to the capitation grant. The attendance was very large. Sir Hedworth Williamson, Bart., M.P., presided, and said he was perfectly certain that Mr. Cardwell was reasonable enough, were a fair case put before him by the different corps in the country, to reconsider the suggestions. Nothing, he believed, was further from Mr. Cardwell's wish than to thrust down the throats of officers what was not beneficial to the corps. It was agreed that the suggestions be taken up seriatim, which was done.—A meeting of artillery volunteer officers was held at Edinburgh, yesterday week, for the purpose of considering the Government proposal in reference to the volunteers. The general opinion seemed to be that the proposed capitation grant was insufficient, and that an allowance for clothing should be made to each regiment according to the enrolled strength, instead of according to the number of efficient, and that a further allowance should be made for contingent expenses. A committee was appointed to ascertain the opinions of the artillery volunteers throughout the country, and to communicate with the War Office.

An estate of more than £100,000 value has fallen to the Turkish Government, owing to the death of a Mussulman, at Smyrna, who has not left any heirs-at-law.

All doubt respecting the safety of the Great Eastern has been removed. Her delay seems to have been due to considerations of economy in coal, on account of which she has been going at half speed. Her tender arrived at the Cape on the 13th ult., announcing the big ship to be close behind.

The members of the Surrey stag-hunt, which include the Prince de Joinville, the Duc d'Aumale, the Duc de Chartres, and other gentlemen, have been presented with six young deer from Lord Derby, from Knowsley Park. The late Lord Derby was at one time master of the Surrey stag-hounds.



CHRISTMAS-DAY SERVICE IN ST. PETER'S, AT ROME.
SEE PAGE 125.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

Tattersalls', which is rather curious (we can hardly see why) as to how the recent betting-house decision will affect "its ancient solitary reign," is awaiting the publication of the spring handicap weights. In the case of the Liverpool Steeplechase the ring has not deigned to wait for them, but gone busily to work on about a score of horses. Bridgewater and Astolfo have been the Christmas pets for the Two Thousand, and it seems to be quite taken for granted that the Tugill stable have given up all hopes of Stanley, who still "walks in the home paddock," and think highly of Exciseman. Master M'Grath is not in such request as he was with the dog-book men, who are not unmindful of the fact that there will be three very "busy bees"—Bacchante, Brigade, and Bab-at-the-Bowster—in his track, and that he may again take to tumbling about when he reaches his hare.

The Earl of Stair was able to appear in the field once more, after his severe gunshot accident, at the Wigtownshire Club meeting. His Lordship's Swivel by Cauld Kail was drawn in the second ties of the Castle Kennedy Stakes, which was won by a well-known coursing-writer's dog, Mr. D. Brown's Birkie. Westward Ho (late Energy), which divided the Club Stakes with Queen, was a purchase from Mr. Hyslop, who seems to be taking a strong lead amongst Cumberland coursers. Baldock men had a taste of old times over the celebrated Bygrave estate. The ground was generally seeds, and the hares stout and plentiful. Isoline maintained the championship of the district; and Winsome Lass, one of the Tornado—Bertha litter, which reckons Pauline among them, divided another stake.

It is said that £5000 is the price put on the head of Knight of the Garter, and Mr. Blenkinson, whose love of the Weatherbit blood is well known, has purchased Mandrake from Mr. Jardine. He was a good but not the most fortunate of racehorses, and generally had to struggle at high weights for bad stakes. Seeing that he has two strains of Birdcatcher on his dam's side, his breeding is unexceptionable, and he is a very neatly-made horse. He could both race or stay, and his three best performances were beating Knight of the Border at a stone for the Liverpool Autumn Cup, running second to Fairwind in the same year when giving him 2 st. at York, and beating Julius in 1868 for the Doncaster Cup. In all, he started thirty-one and won twelve times. Last year he was hardly trained. Nowadays, when there are so many nonstayers at the stud, he should be a very valuable acquisition. Perhaps no man ever had three such handsome sires in his possession at one time as Blair Athol, Saunterer, and Mandrake.

Lord Poltimore's dog hounds, which consist of twenty-three couple of entered and eight of unentered, will be sold at the kennels, near Exeter, on April 13. It will be remembered that this kennel carried all before it when the Yorkshire Agricultural Society held its bound show at York, in 1866. On April 7 the Bicester hounds come to the hammer, and the Atherstone, we believe, in the same month, so that Messrs. Tattersall will have rather a busy spring. The meeting at Cambridge did nothing towards healing the Cambridgeshire Hunt dispute; but Colonel Duncombe, M.P., states that he has never heard of a scarcity of foxes at Waresley before, and that he at once discharged the keeper, of whose language Mr. Newton, the master of the hounds, complained. As Mr. Newton seems so determined not to retain the mastership, both on account of this unpleasantness and his health, it is to be hoped that Lord Royston will accept office. The weather all up and down the country has been most variable during the past week, and played havoc with many hunting and coursing fixtures. Melton Mowbray was never known to be so full, and the Quorn has not shown such good sport for many a season; whereas Mr. Talbot is having the worst season he has known since he became master, some thirteen years ago. Lord Middleton's hounds are having capital sport, and Orvis has quite made his name as a huntsman. The York and Ainsty are doing very little.

THE FARM.

The Highland and Agricultural Society held their general meeting, last week, in Edinburgh. Miss Burdett-Coutts was proposed by the Duke of Buccleuch, and elected a lady member of the society by acclamation. Eighty-nine more members were elected on the same day. Mr. Harvey noticed the large number of Mid Lothian farmers who had been made directors, and did not consider that East Lothian had been fairly dealt by in the matter. The total income of last year was £12,073, and the balance £4851, while the arrears of subscriptions are only £58 10s. Including medals and premiums, £676 were expended on 270 districts last year. It seems that, despite the wet weather, the Edinburgh show was a most profitable one. When the society met there in 1859 the surplus was only £74, whereas in 1869 it was about £2050. The number of analyses made by Professor Anderson during the year were 372, or more than those made by Professor Voelcker for the Royal English Society, which numbers fully 1200 more members.

The Hon. Mr. W. Petre has published a report of the sewage culture at the Lodge Farm, Barking, in 1869. Fifty-three acres have been sown with Italian rye-grass, and between Sept. 1, 1868, and Sept. 1, 1869, it yielded more than 1800 tons. One plot a little less than two acres gave in three cuttings 4½ tons. As regards its feeding power, one of five steers tied up to test it, which weighed 6½ cwt. on April 24, weighed 9 cwt. in seven weeks, having consumed daily less than 1½ cwt. of grass; and the others waxed much in the same proportion. The sewage-grown sugar beet was found to contain more sugar than any other English specimen sent to the mill at Lavenham; and 1½ acres of white onions, sown early in March, but which did not look well until June, have realised over £67 for the plot. The crop of winter oats has produced 11 qrs. to the acre, by the application of 1000 to 1200 tons of sewage. In cabbage crops two or three dressings of sewage, making from 800 to 1200 tons per acre, will produce in quantity a crop equal to that raised by means of farm or London manure applied at the rate of twenty-five to thirty-two horse loads to the acre; whilst the effect on the colour and appearance of the plants caused by the sewage has frequently had the effect of increasing the price from 25 to 30 per cent. During the year 360,000 tons of sewage have been sufficient to render highly productive 120 acres of the Lodge Farm. Of this quantity fifty-three acres have been in rye-grass, bearing an average of five crops in that time, absorbing about two thirds of the whole quantity of sewage, and more than fifty acres have had two crops; thus making 120 acres of land bear 382 acres of crop in the year. The value of the crops in the gross grown with the 360,000 tons of sewage is over £3200.

Mr. E. Bowly has sold his celebrated old white bull Seventh Duke of York (17,754) to Mr. E. H. Cheney, of Gaddesby. He was eleven years old on the 24th inst., and is the only pure English-bred Duchess bull in the country. Mr. Cheney hopes to have a calf by him from his 1000-guinea American Duchess heifer.

Mr. G. Faulkner, of Rothersthorpe, once well known as a short-horn breeder, died a short time since, aged eighty. He had been both a farmer and breeder for several years, but latterly he rarely showed, and he had a large private trade for his surplus stock. One of the bulls he used in 1840 was Manning's Eclipse, the sire of his roan Rothersthorpe ox, which was such a feature of the Smithfield Club in 1847. Several years ago he gave up the farm to his son.

The new "Derwentwater doctrine," that a stately lady in a cloak, a hat with a feather, and a drawn sword, may levy a distress on any farm she may graciously pick out when she is short of pocket-money, seems likely to receive a summary check at last. It is very difficult to understand why, when the authorities knew that the cattle and sheep were to be sold next day, and that the county police were not strong enough to rescue them, they did not send for the soldiers from Newcastle. As it is, by allowing the sale to proceed they only emboldened "the Countess" and the auctioneer with the silver hammer, and, having once got hold of the money, these free-lances issued two more distresses. However, all the parties concerned—"Countess," auctioneer, rioters, and the buyer of "the old pup," &c., are about to have a sharp taste of the law at the expense of the Admiralty. Such scenes, if allowed to go on unchecked in the midst of an excitable mining population, might lead to a fanatical uprising, such as we once had in Kent with a "Baronet."

ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES.

DUST AND DISEASE.

Professor Tyndall opened the Friday evening meetings, on the 21st inst., with a discourse on Dust. After quoting Daniel Culverwell, who says "that the sun discovers atoms, though they be invisible by candlelight, and makes them dance naked in his beams," he exhibited the dust floating in the atmosphere illuminated by projecting through it a beam of the electric light. He stated that the presence of this dust in his tube had caused him much annoyance during his researches on the decomposition of vapours by light, and that, after vainly trying to remove it by chemical means, he had succeeded in intercepting it by passing the air over the top of a spirit-lamp flame. The floating matter no longer appeared, having been burnt up; it was therefore organic matter and not inorganic and incombustible, as generally supposed. When the air was sent too rapidly through the flame, a fine blue cloud appeared in the tube—the smoke of the organic particles. He then proceeded to experiment with a small gas-furnace containing a platinum tube that could be heated to redness, and he found that when the air was previously passed through the cold platinum tube into his experimental tube the latter was full of particles, but that when the air was passed through the red-hot platinum tube his tube was "optically empty," the floating matter had wholly disappeared. He then showed that this matter, although organic, cannot be burnt in the focus of a concave mirror, which readily ignited paper, the particles being probably transparent to radiant heat, and therefore incombustible. He next exhibited the effect of placing the smokeless flame of a spirit-lamp beneath a fine cylindrical beam of electric light. Mingling with the flame were seen wreaths of darkness resembling black smoke. This Professor Tyndall proved to be not smoke at all, by producing similar phenomena by the agency of a red-hot poker and also by a pure hydrogen flame which contained no carbon. The darkness, he said, is simply that of stellar space, the blackness resulting from the absence from the track of the beam of all matter competent to scatter its light. Similar effects are produced whenever pure air, or any gas not containing these floating organic particles, was employed. When the beam was blown upon by an ordinary bellows the particles ejected replaced those disturbed; but when the nozzle was not too tightly packed with cotton wool the air passed through the wool was filtered of its floating matter and formed a distinct band of darkness in the illuminated dust. The air of London is loaded with this organic dust, and there is no respite to our contact with it, and the wonder, said Dr. Tyndall, is that so little of it appears to be deadly. In regard to this small portion, he made some remarks on the old theory of the propagation of epidemic diseases by what was considered to be organic matter in a state of motor decay. He then referred to the independent discovery by Cagniard de la Tour and Schwann that fermentation is effected by the yeast-plant, and thus is a product of life, and not a process of decay; and commented on the results of the researches of Pasteur, which showed that true ferments are organised beings finding their necessary food in the repeated ferments. Professor Tyndall then adverted to the germ theory of epidemic disease expressed by Kircher, favoured by Linnaeus, and thought to be probably true by Sir Henry Holland, when it was considered a wild dream by many of his medical brethren. As whole forests may arise from a single seedling, so, probably, by means of these minute germs, the Asiatic cholera, beginning at the Ganges, in seventeen years spread itself over nearly the whole habitable globe. Professor Lister has shown the existence of the microscopic vibrios in putrefying matter; and Helmholtz has proved their connection with the propagation of typhoid fever. In conclusion, Professor Tyndall showed that when human breath absolutely freed from these floating organic matters is projected upon the beam of light the dark bands are produced in the illuminated track of dust; and he also showed how the lungs could be filled with pure air by inhaling ordinary air through a handful of cotton wool. This, he said, reveals the philosophy of the practice of medical men, who frequently inhale through a handkerchief in foul atmospheres, and he suggested the employment of cotton-wool respirators as a defence against contagion, saying that scarlet fever might possibly be thus warded off, and that even in lung diseases irritation might be abated, if decay could not be arrested. By this means, so far as the germs are concerned, the air of the highest Alps may be brought into the chamber of the invalid.

The president, Sir Henry Holland, Bart., was in the chair, and Mr. Gladstone, the Premier, Earl Granville, the Dean of Westminster, Sir Edwin Landseer, and many other distinguished persons were present.

METEOROLOGY—TEMPERATURE.

Mr. Robert C. Scott, M.A., Director of the Meteorological Office, gave the first of a course of four lectures on Meteorology on Saturday last. He began by observing that originally meteorology was the science relating to things above the earth, and embraced astronomy, but that now these sciences were completely separated. A close relationship, however, exists between meteorology and physical geography, especially with reference to climate in general, and the influence of ocean currents on weather. The Bible and classical authors teem with allusions to meteorology, at all times a favourite study; and Aristotle and his pupil Theophrastus wrote treatises upon it; yet very little real advance could be made without accurate instruments. The thermometer was invented about 1600, and the barometer half a century later, and before the beginning of the eighteenth century the Florentine Academy began to register observations. As there are, however, even at present, few stations where as many as fifty years' observations have been regularly kept, it is evident, said Mr. Scott, that it must be futile to attempt to discover laws for secular changes of long duration for some time to come. He then reminded his audience that air is composed of two gases, oxygen and hydrogen, in the proportion of 1 to 4; containing also certain impurities, of which water in the vaporous state is the most important in relation to meteorology. The air is greatly influenced by heat, an independent source of energy derived from the sun; and our seasonal changes of climate are closely connected with his apparent annual motion. When the sun's heat strikes on the surface of the earth, the effect produced differs according to the condition of that surface—whether it be dry land, open water, ice, or snow—the first being the most seriously affected. The heat received is constantly given off to cooler bodies; in fact, there is always heat in motion between bodies; and the temperature of a body is only constant when the supply of heat to it from other substances is equal to what it gives off. During the morning hours the earth receives more heat than it gives up, till about two p.m., which is well known as the warmest hour; the coldest hour being just before sunrise. Similarly the extreme monthly temperatures are observed in July and January, not at the solstices. All observations are carried on by the thermometer; but great care, Mr. Scott said, is necessary in setting it up, so as to give true indications. A free exposure to the air with shelter from the sun is requisite, and the height of the instrument above the ground should be carefully noted. To ascertain mean temperatures by taking the average of a long series of observations, thermographs have been invented to replace the laborious hourly readings. The best of these is the one used by the meteorological committee, and described in their report for 1867. This registers by means of photography. As the process is costly, other plans have been proposed, but none are thoroughly satisfactory. As daily mean temperatures are likely to be very irregular, and an average for a longer period gives a truer representation of the annual range, five days are the period generally used, and seventy-three such means compose a year. From the determined yearly and monthly temperatures thermal charts are made. This work has been ably done by Professor Dove, of Berlin, who has constructed charts for each month and for the year, as well as "abnormal charts" showing the disturbance of temperature from its theoretical amount at several stations. Referring to large copies of these charts, Mr. Scott explained how the isothermal lines show the average temperature of a place, the extremes of its climate being the summer and winter temperatures, which mainly regulate the existence of organic life; the chief fruits depending upon the summer temperature for their ripening, while evergreens flourish where the temperature is high. Places where the range from summer to winter is great have "Continental climates," and those where it is small have "insular climates." Yakutsk has an annual range of

106 deg., while Dublin, within 10 deg. of the same latitude, has a range of only 20 deg. Mr. Scott concluded with an explanation of Humboldt's laws of climates and remarks on the action of heat in disturbing the circulation of the atmosphere, thereby influencing the elastic force of the air and affecting the barometer, and thus connecting the subject of temperature with pressure.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE HUMAN BODY—THE HEAD.

Professor G. M. Humphry, M.D., F.R.S., of Cambridge, devoted his second lecture on the Architecture of the Human Body, on Tuesday last, to the head. After referring to the skull as the basket containing and preserving the jewel, the brain, as well as the principal organs of sense, he proceeded to describe its remarkable articulation to the superior extremity of the vertebral column, and the admirable muscular apparatus and processes by which it is balanced, and by which we are enabled to maintain our erect position, move our heads, and sustain heavy weights. Referring to examples, the Professor showed that the head is an ovoid, more or less flattened or elongated in different individuals, but not necessarily differing in capacity. He said that, although the external form of the skull closely corresponded with the size of the brain, yet this was not necessarily an argument in favour of phrenology, which was refuted by other arguments. In commenting on the segmental character of the bones of the skull, he explained Goethe's celebrated vertebral theory, that the various parts of the skull are really continuations of the vertebral column; and, after enumerating the arguments for and against this theory, Professor Humphry expressed himself to be in favour of its tenability, as being in conformity with primal forms. He next described the way in which the various parts of the skull are joined, being either dovetailed, overlapped, or interdigitated very securely; and he especially pointed out the perfect adaptation of the nature of the skull to that of the brain, which it protected. In the latter part of the lecture he described the development of the skull from the very earliest stages of our life, and noticed the existence in the negro skull of some of the peculiarities of the foetal skull. In conclusion the Professor reverted to the very important office of the joints and processes in the connection of the skull with the neck and vertebral column, the abundant provision of joint-oil to facilitate all movements without friction, and the arrangements made for protecting the medulla oblongata, the upper extremity of the spinal cord, since injury to it is followed by instant death.

CHEMISTRY OF VEGETABLE PRODUCTS.

Professor Odling, in his second lecture, on Thursday last, resumed the consideration of the building up of vegetable tissues, referring again to the convincing evidence of the absorption of carbonic acid or gas from the atmosphere by plants, and the decomposition of this gas into carbon retained by the plant, and oxygen evolved into the air. Among other illustrations, he referred to the evolution of oxygen gas by conferva growing in water containing carbonous gas, stating that the quantity of oxygen evolved was in direct proportion to the quantity of carbonic gas in the water, and that when this gas was wholly excluded from the water no oxygen was evolved. Professor Odling next demonstrated the existence of hydrogen in vegetable produce, and proved that it is derived from the mineral substance in water, large quantities of which are absorbed by the roots and evaporated from the leaves of plants. He alluded to the original experiments of Stephen Hales, who, in 1724, proved the absorption and evolution of water by a sunflower to the extent of 20 oz. in the day of twelve hours; and he also commented on the very elaborate and accurate experiments of Lawes and Gilbert with ordinary agricultural produce, which showed that the absorption and evolution of wheat, barley, peas, beans, clover, and other crops, were upwards of two times their weight of water during the course of their growth, the absorption being the largest when they were growing most actively. The Professor next considered the evidence of the decomposition of a portion of this water into hydrogen, which is retained in the plant tissues, the oxygen of the water being evolved into the air. He then demonstrated the existence of oxygen in woody fibre by water being a result of its combustion. He thus showed that the great bulk of vegetable produce is made up of carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen, adding that the chief portion of the oxygen therein had probably not been absorbed as oxygen, but was due to the incomplete removal of oxygen from the carbonic gas and the water which had furnished the carbon and hydrogen. The lecture was illustrated by conclusive experiments.

Professor Ruskin will deliver a discourse on Verona and its river on Friday next, Feb. 4.

LAW AND POLICE.

The days for holding the Northern Circuit have been fixed by the Judges on that circuit, Mr. Justice Willes and Mr. Justice Brett, as follows:—Appleby, Feb. 15; Carlisle, Feb. 16; Newcastle, Feb. 19; Durham, Feb. 24; Lancaster, March 2; Manchester, March 5; and Liverpool, March 19. The dates for the Home Circuit have been thus fixed by the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Keating:—Hertford, Feb. 28; Chelmsford, March 3; Maidstone, March 7; Lewes, March 14; and Kingston, March 21. The following circuits were fixed on Tuesday:—South Wales (Lord Chief Justice Bovill): Haverfordwest, Feb. 28; Cardigan, March 4; Carmarthen, March 8; Swansea, March 12; Brecon, March 24; Presteign, March 28; Chester, March 21. Oxford (Mr. Baron Martin and Mr. Justice Lush): Reading, Feb. 26; Oxford, March 2; Worcester, March 5; Stafford, March 11; Shrewsbury, March 21; Hereford, March 24; Monmouth, March 26; Gloucester, March 30. The Judges on the Western Circuit (the Lord Chief Baron and Mr. Justice Hannen) settled the dates of the assizes on Thursday, as follows:—Winchester, Feb. 26; Dorchester, March 4; Exeter, 9; Bodmin, 16; Taunton, 21; Devizes, 31; and Bristol, April 5.

Mr. Adam Gifford, Sheriff of Orkney and Shetland, has received and accepted the appointment to the vacant Judgeship in the Outer House of the Court of Session.

The Judge Ordinary of the Probate Court has again declined to interfere in the details of the Tichborne case, in which there are rival claimants to the baronetcy and estate, until the Court of Chancery has given its decision.

On Monday the arguments in the case of the Duke of Newcastle came before the Chief Judge in Bankruptcy. After hearing them his Lordship decided that there had been an act of bankruptcy. The affairs of Mr. C. Turner, formerly chairman of the Great Eastern Railway were again before the Court of Bankruptcy yesterday week. The liabilities are represented as exceeding £100,000, but no accounts have been filed. The bankrupt did not attend the sitting, which was one for last examination and discharge. It was alleged that Mr. Turner was suffering from nervous excitement, and that it was his wish to give all possible information respecting his accounts as soon as his health would permit. An adjournment was ordered to March 2.—On Wednesday a case was before the Chief Judge in which an adjudication was made as far back as 1810. The bankrupt, however, set the Court at defiance, and died in prison in 1846. The assignee was also dead, and his representative now wished to be freed from further responsibility. A fund amounting to between £3000 and £4000 is now ready for distribution. The application was all allowed to stand over for a few days.

A claim made on the General Provincial Life Insurance Company for £5000 by Mr. Daintree, on a policy effected on the life of his late wife, has been successfully resisted by the official liquidator. The case was argued on Monday before Vice-Chancellor Malins, there being an alleged misrepresentation in the answer to the question "Have you ever been proposed to or declined by any other office? If so, name it." The following reply was given:—"Have been and still am corresponding with other offices, as the amount to be insured is large." It was alleged that Mrs. Daintree's life had been refused by several offices. The Vice-Chancellor gave judgment against the claim.

The Court of Queen's Bench has resolved unanimously to make absolute the mandamus to the Bridgewater Election Commissioners

directing them to grant Mr. Lovibond a certificate of indemnity for his disclosures. The Lord Chief Justice expressed a very strong opinion that great injustice had been done to Mr. Lovibond, both by the manner in which he was browbeaten and interrupted by the Commissioners during his examination and also by the refusal of a certificate after he had made a clean breast of all he knew.

A point bearing upon the liability of railway companies was, on Monday, decided by the Court of Queen's Bench. A passenger on the North London line, on the train arriving at Highbury, attempted to get out of the carriage, fell upon the line, and was killed. Although a porter had called out "Highbury," the train had really stopped short of the station, and the compartment in which the deceased was sitting was in the tunnel. His widow brought an action against the company, and the jury wished to assess the damages at £1200. The Judge, however, ordered a nonsuit to be entered, and the question whether the company was liable was, on Monday, argued before the full court. It was held by the Judges that the mere fact of a porter inviting passengers to alight would not justify a man in leaving a carriage when danger was to be apprehended. A passenger had a perfect right to have the train drawn up to the platform before he alighted. The nonsuit, therefore, would not be disturbed.—Several cases of compensation, arising out of the New-cross collision have been before the courts. A new trial has been ordered in the case of a publican who had obtained a verdict of £3500, on the company paying down £2000; and also in the case of another licensed victualler, who had been awarded £600. A claim for £5000 on behalf of Jane Scott has been by consent reduced to £125.—Another case arising out of the New-cross accident was before the Sheriff's Court on Saturday. Damages were laid at £5000. The jury awarded £10.

A full bench of Judges has been occupied in the Court for the Consideration of Crown Cases Reserved with an Appeal from the Quarter Sessions of the North Riding of Yorkshire. The point of law was raised in the interest of two women who had sent a living child in a hamper by rail from Middlesbrough to Gisborough, and the question was whether this was "exposing a child within the meaning of the statute." Their Lordships decided that it was, and affirmed the conviction.

Vice-Chancellor James has made an order for the winding up of the Bank of London and National Provincial Insurance Association, one of the numerous amalgamations of the Albert. The Master of the Rolls has made an order for the winding up of the London and Manchester Assurance Company (Limited).

An important judgment affecting the status of betting-houses was, on Saturday last, delivered by the Court of Queen's Bench. Messrs. Wright, Morris, and Smith, three well-known betting commission agents, appealed against convictions by Sir Thomas Henry, by which they were held to have brought themselves within the provisions of the Act for the Suppression of Betting-Houses. The case for the appellants was argued by Mr. Mellish, Mr. Hawkins, and Mr. Merewether; but the Court, without calling upon the Attorney-General to support the convictions, held that the decisions of the Bow-street magistrate were right.

James and Ellen Clifford, father and daughter, the one charged with "sweating" gold coin, and the other with passing the deteriorated currency, were taken before the police magistrate at Worship-street, on Tuesday, and committed for trial. No new evidence was produced.—An industrious coiner, who gave the name of Richard Smith, was, on Tuesday, taken before Mr. Lushington. The police entered his dwelling-place at Limehouse, and found on the table at which he was seated 81 counterfeit florins, 221 shillings, two galvanic batteries, and five porous cylinders. The prisoner was sent for trial.

At the Court of Probate, on Thursday afternoon, the case of "Smith v. Atkins" was concluded before Lord Penzance, Baron Channell, and Mr. Justice Hannen. The case was heard last year before a jury, and the facts as then stated were of a somewhat singular character. The testatrix was a Miss Atkins, a maiden lady, who at the time of her death was lodging with Mrs. Smith, the plaintiff, who keeps a private hotel in Cecil-street, Strand. She was admitted to be of intemperate habits, and it was alleged that Mrs. Smith had so much influence over her that she gave her the bulk of her property, which was estimated to be worth over £30,000. Against probate to the will the defendants alleged fraud and undue influence, and the jury pronounced against the will on the latter plea, and the case now came before the full court on an appeal for a new trial, on the ground that the verdict was contrary to evidence, and that the plaintiff was taken by surprise, on mainly relying upon the plea upon which the verdict was given. The Court pronounced against the application for a new trial.

Mr. Demetrio Pappa, the late manager of the Oriental Commercial Bank, again appeared at the Mansion House, on Tuesday, on a charge of embezzlement. Mr. Francis Mowatt, chairman of the Credit Foncier Company, who was appointed one of the three shareholders of the bank to confer with the directors to see if anything could be done to save it from going into bankruptcy, was examined at some length. A resolution was adopted that the manager should not pay away any money without the express authority of the directors; but, in defiance of that resolution, Mr. Pappa, according to the witness, paid himself a dividend warrant of £1028. The hearing was again adjourned.

Mr. Elliott, the magistrate at Lambeth, has recommended that a case should be taken to the Court of Queen's Bench in order to decide the question whether lunatics are entitled to sick allowance as members of friendly societies.

A considerable sum in coin and bills—£2500 in all—has been stolen from the iron safe of Messrs. Peek, the tea merchants, in Eastcheap.

A solicitor was, yesterday week, committed at the Mansion House for misappropriating a cheque of £15 intrusted to him by a client for payment to a third person.

It has been decided in the Liverpool Police Court that the owner of pledged goods destroyed by fire, they not being insured, cannot recover the value of them from the pawnbroker.

The Bury Cotton Spinning and Manufacturing Company have been fined for employing nineteen persons under eighteen years of age after six o'clock in the evening. The total amount, with costs, was £43 10s.

The provisions of the Mines' Inspection Act have been enforced in a salutary decision at the Airdrie Sheriff Court, the underground manager of a coal-pit having been fined in the full amount for neglecting to examine the workings before the men descended the pit.

A Manchester butcher was taken, on Thursday week, to the City Police Court, charged with having diseased meat in his possession. The offence was proved, and, as he had been twice fined for a similar offence, he was sent for three months' hard labour.

A cashier employed by a large firm in Manchester has absconded, after defrauding his employers, by a system of exchange bills, to the extent of nearly £4000. He has been apprehended at Exeter.

The streets of the town of Biarritz are to be lighted with gas. Letters from Dr. Livingstone and Dr. Kirk are published in the Cape newspapers, but furnish no new information.

On the 15th inst. we published some particulars of the will of the late William Davenport, Esq., from which it has been inferred that the extensive businesses carried on by him are about to be discontinued. We have authority for stating that the business will be permanently carried on as heretofore.

There is one executioner to each Imperial Court in France, or twenty-seven in all, whose salaries, with those of their assistants, appear on the Budget for 200,000f. In Paris the income is 4000f., and in Lyons 3000f., with as much more, in each place, for keeping in repair the scaffold. Bordeaux, Rouen, and Toulouse pay 2400f. each, whilst the remaining twenty-two towns each pay 2000f. In Corsica the pay is only 1200f. a year.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

Mr. Weedon has been elected Coroner for Berks by a large majority.

The Recorder'ship of Tiverton is vacant by the death of Mr. Richard Roope. Mr. Roope died last week of typhoid fever.

The Duke of Abercorn has consented to preside at the annual festival of the St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, on March 17.

Sir Francis Lyceet has withdrawn from the contest for Southwark. There are now three candidates—Mr. Odger and Sir Sydney Waterlow, Liberals; and Colonel Beresford, Conservative.

Vice-Chancellor Malins has consented to preside at the ensuing anniversary festival of the Solicitors' Benevolent Association, which is appointed to take place, on June 15, at the Freemasons' Tavern.

The anniversary festival of the Caledonian Society was celebrated, on Tuesday evening, by a dinner and a ball at the Freemasons' Tavern. The company numbered about 200 ladies and gentlemen.

The number of paupers in the metropolis at the end of the third week in January was 160,338, against 150,072 in the same week of the preceding year. In 1867 the number was 267,713.

The Earl of Strafford has accepted the biennial office of president of the Hospital for Diseases of the Throat, Golden-square, W., vice the Duke of Grafton, whose term of office has expired.

At Bradford the builders have established schools for the technical instruction of young men engaged in their trades. The charge is 3s. per quarter. The schools are open four nights in the week, from seven to nine.

It was mentioned at the London Court of Common Council, on Thursday week, that several historical and other documents of importance have been removed from the archives of the Corporation. The matter was referred to a committee for investigation.

At the annual meeting of the London Orphan Asylum, on Monday, an increase of £8000 in life subscriptions and donations was reported in the income of last year. The total amount received in aid of the erection of the new schools at Watford is now £20,000.

Some witless idler has hoaxed the secretaries of King's College Hospital and St. James's Diocesan Home Mission by sending spurious cheques for £1000 as professed donations from "L. S. D.," in imitation of the many anonymous gifts of that kind that have been so often recorded of late under three initials.

A dinner was given in the Jerusalem Chamber, on Tuesday, to the Archbishop of Syria. The Dean of Westminster presided, and there were present the Greek Minister, the Bishops of London, Rochester, Ely, and Colombo, and the Earls of Glasgow and Elgin, in all about forty.

Mr. Hugh Matheson, as chairman of the committee of merchants lately formed in London, has sent a letter to the chambers of commerce indicating various points in the new convention with China which are considered objectionable and urging the chambers to oppose its ratification in its present form.

Among the most important regulations in the new cab system is the provision that, at the time of starting, each cabman shall hand to the hirer a ticket giving the number of the hackney carriage, the owner's name and address, a table of the fare per mile and per hour, and information respecting the carrying of luggage.

A metropolitan police orphanage is to be established. A weekly payment of 3d. from each inspector and 1d. from every sergeant and constable will support the charity. One of the rules directs that any child whose father is dead, paralytic, totally blind, or insane, shall be considered an orphan. Candidates must be between seven and twelve years of age, and cannot remain in the orphanage after attaining fifteen years.

The delegates of the University of Oxford having consented to extend their local examinations to girls, it is proposed to hold an examination for girls in London next June. The committee of ladies, who have for some years superintended the University of Cambridge local examinations, have undertaken the management of these examinations likewise. Application for necessary information to be made to the hon. local secretary, Mrs. Roby, 68, St. George's-road, S.W.

The annual general court of the governors of the German Hospital was held, on Monday, at the City Terminus Hotel—Baron H. von Schröder in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Walbaum, honorary secretary, read the annual report of the committee, from which it appeared that the bazaar held last year to pay off the debt on the new building yielded the net amount of £5053. The annual receipts amounted to £5795, and £10,000 had been received from a nobleman in Germany. The expenditure had amounted to £5050.

The annual court and election of the Orphan Working School was held, on Thursday, at the London Tavern—Mr. T. R. Mills in the chair. Mr. Soul, the secretary, read the report, which stated that the general health of the children was good, and their educational progress was satisfactory. The number now in the school was 324, and twenty-five more would be admitted at the present election. The average annual cost of the children per head was £26 4s. 9d. The total receipts for the year had been £12,062; and the expenditure, including £3324 invested, had been £11,950. The invested fund is now £4831.

Two emigration meetings were held on Wednesday—one in connection with the National Emigration League, at the Mansion House, in the afternoon, and the other at Lambeth Baths at night. At the former the Lord Mayor, Sir G. Grey; Mr. S. Morley, M.P.; and Mr. Torrens, M.P., spoke; and resolutions were passed in favour of organised emigration. At the other meeting a committee was appointed to present a petition to the Queen, and letters were read from Mr. A. Tennyson, Mr. Carlyle, Mr. Mill, Mr. Ruskin, and Mr. Froude in favour of colonial emigration. The Lord Mayor's public appeal for funds to enable the British and Colonial Emigration Society to continue its work during the coming season seems likely to be freely responded to.

Sir Roundell Palmer presided, on Wednesday night, at a meeting of the Juridical Society, at which a paper was read by Mr. Droop, on the "Property Rights of Married Women." The purport of the paper was to advocate some further alteration of the law, with a view to giving married women greater control over their property. Sir Roundell Palmer, after the paper had been read, said he doubted whether, on the whole, women did not gain by the present system. They were not liable for their husbands' debts or contracts, and could not be sued for them; while, on the other hand, their husbands were to a great extent, within the limits of a reasonable or necessary agency, liable on the contracts of their wives. No doubt the husband had a certain control over his wife's property; but that was subject, in its turn, to the control of courts of equity. This, it was true, was only applied to the better classes of society. But there was one great consideration which applied to all, and that was, what would be the tendency of legislation based upon the principle of making wives independent of their husbands? Would it be conducive to domestic peace and the harmony of families? He entertained grave doubts upon that question—doubts increased by cases he had observed in the course of his experience. And if women were to have the control of their own property, and their husbands were to be liable for their debts, it might be thought necessary that married women should be liable on their contracts. Would that be a good thing? Would it be well that the mother of the family should be liable to be withdrawn from it by arrest for debt, or harassed by suits at law upon her contracts? As regarded the poorer classes, no doubt it might be desirable that when the husband did not do his duty by his wife she should have a more easy and summary mode of obtaining protection, and to that extent there might be a fair case for legislation, as there might also be with respect to the income of married women. To that extent he might recognise some benefit in legislation, but beyond that, at present, he was not prepared to go.

REPORT OF THE RITUAL COMMISSION.

The Commissioners have, at length, made their third report, which seems to have been adopted unanimously, Sir Joseph Napier simply expressing in a separate report his opinion that their conclusions should not have been presented until the Commission had completed its labours. We subjoin the most important passages of the report:—

"After much deliberation, we have come to the conclusion that it is expedient to read, as now, at each service on ordinary days, one Lesson from the Old Testament and another from the New Testament, generally according to the order of the Books.

"On a careful revision, however, of the present Table of Lessons, we have thought it desirable to vary and shorten many of them. We have disregarded to some extent the present division of chapters when the continuity of the subject seemed to render such a course desirable. And, while we have not felt ourselves justified in recommending any omission in the passages selected, we have endeavoured so to arrange the Lessons as to include whatever might be most conducive to edification when read in the general congregation.

"In the Schedule to this Report will be found the Revised Table of Lessons Proper for Sundays, the Revised Table of Lessons Proper for Holy Days, and the Revised Table for Daily First and Second Lessons.

"It will be seen from this schedule that, on the one hand, we have introduced many passages of Scripture (e.g., from the Books of Chronicles and from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel) which are not now read in public worship; on the other hand, we have largely reduced the number of Lessons taken from the Apocrypha; so that, instead of twenty-six Lessons taken from it for holy days, there will now be only four; and, instead of 106 for ordinary days, there will now be only forty. The New Testament Lessons are so arranged that the whole of that which is now read three times will be read twice in the course of the year—once in the morning and once in the evening. The yearly calendar will be closed with twenty-two Lessons from the Book of the Revelation of St. John the Divine.

"For the Proper Lessons on holidays many passages have been chosen which we think will be found more appropriate than those in the existing tables. Lessons for Ash Wednesday are provided, and the series of Lessons for the Holy Week is now made complete.

"A second series of Lessons for evensong on Sundays has been also provided, to be used either as alternative Lessons at the second service, or at a third service if such service be thought desirable. Where there is a third service, we propose to leave to the minister discretion to read for the second Lesson any chapter or appointed Lesson out of the four Gospels which he may think it expedient to select. We further propose that, upon occasions to be approved by the Ordinary, other Lessons may, with his consent, be substituted for those which are appointed in the calendar.

"We feel it our duty to state to your Majesty that we deemed it expedient to submit privately the Tables of Lessons thus revised by us to the Archbishops and Bishops of England and Ireland, to the Deans of cathedral churches, and to the Theological Professors of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin, and Durham. To the suggestions which we received we have given full consideration, and we have adopted those which seemed to us to be improvements on our original proposals."

THE NEW CHURCH AT CROYDON.

Croydon church, having been rebuilt by Mr. Scott, R.A., was consecrated, on the 5th inst., by the Bishop of London, who also preached. The design of the new edifice is in harmony with the original building, which was, it may be remembered, burnt down. The style is Perpendicular, and the plan consists of nave, north and south aisles, chancel, and chancel-aisles. The nave and chancel seating is of oak, the former on the open and free system, and will accommodate 1500 persons. The seats in the chancel are carved. The chancel also contains an alabaster reredos, comprising three subjects, in alto-relief, the centre representing the Crucifixion, with the Ascension and the Nativity on each side. The present building, which is 18 ft. longer than the old church, is by this means rendered of the same seating capacity as its predecessor, which contained galleries. The total cost will be about £35,000. Of this amount £1000 has been expended in the desirable but unusual process of buying up the vested interests of certain holders of sittings in the chancel; and £1200 as the cost of the organ, which is worked by hydraulic power. The number of pipes is 2054. There is also a chiming-machine by Gillett and Bland, by which chimes are not only played in the ordinary method, but also by hand, like an organ or piano. Within the walls of the church were interred the remains of Archbishops Grindall, Whitgift (a great benefactor of Croydon), Sheldon (the founder of the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, whose monument was totally destroyed by the fire), Wake, Potter, and Herring. The new church is adorned with five stained windows of English and foreign workmanship, which are special gifts. The window over the communion-table contains, in the twelve apertures, scenes from the life of our Saviour. This was purchased by special subscription, the principal part of which was collected by Miss Hodgson and the ladies of the congregation. The west window, under the tower, was presented by Mr. R. A. Heath, and is of foreign workmanship. The window in the south chapel is the gift of Mr. C. S. Robinson, Duppas Hill. In the south side of the chancel, over the vestry door, is a memorial window, given by Mr. W. J. Blake, of Duppas Hill. The fifth window, which is in the south side of the church, near the once beautiful monument of Archbishop Sheldon, has also been erected by private munificence. The altar-table, which is of marble, is the gift of Mr. Charles Newton; as also are the handsomely-bound Bibles and Church Services. The pulpit is of carved oak, the panels being divided by representations of the twelve Evangelists. The prayer-desk is the gift of Mr. W. Gaskin; it is likewise carved in oak, and cost about 50s. The reredos is in marble; it is divided into three compartments, representing the Birth, Crucifixion, and Ascension of our Saviour: above these compartments are white marble figures of Mark, Luke, and John. The font is in marble, and carved to correspond with the reredos.

THE SIN NANZING AND THE SUEZ CANAL.

The first British merchant-vessel that has made the voyage to India by passing through the Suez Canal is the new paddle steam-ship Sin Nanzing, belonging to the North China Steam-Ship Company, which arrived at Bombay on the 16th ult. The Brazilian, another British steam-vessel, got through the canal shortly afterwards, being obliged to stop at Port Said to lighten herself of part of a heavy cargo of coals before she could pass. The Sin Nanzing, commanded by Captain Drage, formerly of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's service, left Greenock on Nov. 11, stopped three days at Gibraltar for coal, and six hours at Malta; she was off Port Said on the 29th. Next day, she entered the port, where lay the Brazilian, and on Dec. 1, at nine o'clock in the morning, the Sin Nanzing went into the Canal. She accidentally grounded on a sand-bank in Lake Ballah, and was detained there nine hours, but got off without damage, took on board two new pilots at Ismailia, anchored the second night in the Bitter Lakes, and arrived at Suez on Dec. 3, at ten o'clock in the morning. She left Suez on that day, at eleven o'clock at night, and reached Bombay in twelve days ten hours. The whole voyage from Greenock to Bombay thus occupied thirty-six days. In the opinion of Captain James Blow, marine superintendent of the North China Steam-Ship Company, who was on board the Sin Nanzing, steam-vessels can be made to convey troops from England to India, by the Suez Canal, in twenty-one days. He states, in a letter to the *Bombay Gazette*, that he would undertake to carry out 600 soldiers on board the Sin Nanzing in twenty-five days, instead of seventy-five, the average time of their voyage round the Cape during the Indian mutiny; and that the cost would be only half as much. In this state of the case, Captain Blow invites the British and Indian taxpayers to consider whether we still want to keep so large a European army stationed in India. There is much force in his suggestion,



CROYDON NEW PARISH CHURCH.

We present an Illustration of the *Sin Nanzing*. She was built and her engines were made by Mr. John Elder, of Glasgow, for Messrs. Trautmann and Co., of the North China Steam-Ship Company. The dimensions of this vessel are—length between perpendiculars, 225 ft.; beam, 32 ft.; depth of hold to spar deck, 23 ft. 3 in. Her engines are of 300 nominal horse-power, on the compound principle, for which the firm of Randolph, Elder, and Co. have been so long distinguished; they are also diagonal, and have four cylinders. Before her departure, she had most successfully performed her trial trips for speed and economy of fuel. The results obtained furnish the strongest demonstration of the immense superiority of the compound engines over those of the common type. During a long period the firm have devoted special attention to this branch of their business, introducing from time to

time many important improvements. From first to last they have made (including those at present contracted for) no less than seventy-three sets of these engines—twenty-two being for paddle and fifty-one for screw steamers. For a long time they stood almost alone in the manufacture of such engines, but their remarkable success is at length constraining other builders to follow in their steps.

SCENE FROM "THE PRINCESS."

Our Illustration presents the principal scene from the spectacle now represented at the Olympic—namely, that of the grounds of Castle Adamant, to which Prince Hilarion and his friends gain admission, and there so misbehave themselves that the Princess-Principal of

the college has her suspicions, and in the end discovers the trick attempted to be played upon her. The different expressions of her companions show the different feelings with which they are animated. One of them recognises her brother in the supposed female; and thus, by a series of surprises, the plot against the celibate institution is discovered. It thrives, nevertheless; and in the end the fanatical young ladies return to the world and are taught to be content with nature under ordinary conditions.

THE EXPLOSION AT BRYNMAWR.

The explosion of gunpowder in the warehouse of Messrs. Watkins, grocers, at Brynmawr, South Wales, on the evening of Friday week, occasioned the loss of several lives. The boy, Evan Evans,



THE SIN NANZING, NEW CHINA CLIPPER.



SCENE FROM "THE PRINCESS," AT THE OLYMPIC THEATRE.

who had gone with a lighted candle to fetch some powder for a customer in the shop, was blown to pieces; and one or two persons in the street were struck by falling stones or beams of the house, and killed at once, or so injured as to cause their death. There

were four or five casks of powder, each containing about 100 lb.; and the extent of damage to buildings, as shown in our illustration, is reckoned at the value of £3000. Two chapels, which stand close to the premises of Messrs. Watkins, had their roofs, doors, and

windows in great part destroyed; the Rose and Crown public-house, on the other side, and the houses in the rear, also suffered a good deal. The shock of the explosion was felt two miles around, and the noise was heard six miles off beyond the hills.



EFFECTS OF THE GUNPOWDER EXPLOSION AT BRYN-MAWR.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

A meeting of the National Education Union was held in the Free-Trade Hall at Manchester on Monday evening. The Hon. A. J. Egerton, M.P., presided, and the principal speakers were Mr. Cawley, M.P., Lord Howard of Glossop, Mr. H. Birley, M.P., and Archdeacon Durnford. A letter was read from the Bishop-Designate of that city expressing "the strongest possible desire to preserve the religious character of the education given in elementary schools." Resolutions were adopted expressing the opinion of the meeting that legislative measures ought forthwith to be taken for the comprehensive extension and completion of the present denominational system, and that those measures should embody the leading points set forth in the plan of the National Education Union, "especially those which recognise parental responsibility, the inculcation of religious truth (with the maintenance of religious liberty), the payment of school fees, and the continuance of grants from the Consolidated Fund; the extension of the short-time system, with the adoption of an educational certificate, as well as the compulsory education of the children of the vagrant and outdoor pauper classes."

A public meeting was held in Wolverhampton, on Monday night, and resolutions similar to those passed at Manchester were adopted in favour and in extension of the present system of education. The Earl of Dartmouth was the chairman. Lord Lyttelton objects to gratuitous education, as a rule, and would regret to see the establishment of secular schools on a large scale. His objections were stated in a letter sent to the meeting.

Bishop Temple, speaking at Torquay, said he should wish education to be religious, but he was not at all afraid of secular education.

A meeting at Stroud indorsed the scheme of the league.

The Welsh Educational Conference opened at Aberystwith on Tuesday. Three hundred delegates attended in the dining-hall of the University College building. The National Education League sent a deputation, but the Union declined to do so, as they said the proceedings seemed intensely secular, and the delegates were pledged to foregone conclusions. The following resolutions were submitted to the conference:—"That it is the conviction of this conference that any system of national education fully meeting the requirements of Wales must be free, secular, unsectarian, and compulsory." "This conference deems the direct religious teaching now imparted in day-schools of but little value, and is confident that the spiritual training of the young may be fully and safely entrusted to the parents and the Christian Church." Dr. Edwards, of Bala, advocated the abolition of State religion in schools as well as in churches. Secular education, with Bible reading, he approved. Mr. Jones, Machynlleth, and the Rev. D. Rowlands, Bangor, advocated free, unsectarian, and compulsory education. Strenuous efforts were made to upset the first resolution, but the opposition failed. Excited speeches were made on the proposed exclusion of the Bible from schools, and considerable uproar prevailed. It was asserted that if the conference should abolish Bible reading in schools the Welsh people would repudiate it as one man. The two resolutions were discussed from five till after nine o'clock, and repeated divisions took place. It was ultimately resolved that the second resolution did not mean to exclude the reading of the Bible. At the conference, which closed on Wednesday, a resolution was passed declaring that a system of free national education should provide not merely for elementary instruction, but also for the establishment of "advanced and high schools open by graduation to all classes of the community." The conference also entered its protest against the maintenance of the system of religious tests in the Universities. The chances of opening a University College in Wales were fully discussed.

Mr. Roebuck, in distributing the prizes of the Oxford local examination at Nottingham, on Wednesday, spoke on education at Nottingham. In every parish there ought, he held, to be two schools, an infant and an elementary school. Above these should come district schools, while the Universities would complete the system.

An education conference has been held in Chester. Dean Howson presided, and the speakers included ministers of all denominations. Divergent views were expressed, but ultimately it was agreed that delegates should be invited to attend a public meeting to explain the different schemes.

On Monday night a meeting of the inhabitants of South Shields was held at the Mechanics' Hall, Ocean-road, under the presidency of Alderman Strachan. The following resolutions were adopted:—"That it, in the opinion of this meeting, is imperative that such a measure of national education shall be promoted as shall secure to every child in England the advantage of a sound elementary education;" and "That this meeting resolves that a branch of the National Education League be established in South Shields."

On Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the Townhall, Derby, to discuss the question of national education. Several speeches having been made, resolutions were adopted by large majorities to the effect that education should be free, compulsory, and unsectarian; that the National Education League was entitled to the support of the country, and that a branch of the league be established in Derby.

A large and enthusiastic meeting was held at Dudley, on Wednesday night, to hear an address from Mr. George Dixon, M.P., President of the National Education League, on the education question. Alderman Hingley, Mayor, presided. Mr. Dixon delivered a long and vigorous address, in the course of which he unfolded the scheme of the league, and replied to the objections to it. Alderman Cochrane moved that, "in the opinion of this meeting, the scheme of the National League is the one best adapted to secure the education of every child in this country, and this meeting pledges itself to support the action of the league." The resolution was passed.

A well-attended public meeting was held in the Devonport Townhall on Wednesday evening. Mr. Jessie Collins, hon. secretary of the league, who attended as a deputation from the central committee, explained the object of that body. Mr. Thomas Woolcombe (town clerk) moved, and Mr. C. Smith seconded, the first resolution: "That this meeting pledges itself to support the National

Education League in its efforts to secure a system of national education, compulsory, unsectarian, and free." Mr. W. P. Swain moved, and the Rev. G. F. Wilson (Roman Catholic) seconded, the following amendment:—"That this meeting is opposed to any system of national education which is compulsory in its nature and excludes religious teaching." The Rev. William Binns (Unitarian) addressed the meeting in favour of compulsory education. The Rev. Dr. Stock (Baptist) spoke on sectarian education. The Rev. W. Currie (Independent) spoke on free education. The resolution was adopted by a majority of ten to one.

SCIENCE CONFERENCE.

A large number of science-school managers and teachers resident in Lancashire and Yorkshire met at Huddersfield, last Saturday, to consider the recent minute of the Department of Science and Art, relative to scientific instruction.

Mr. Baines, M.P., was chairman, and he drew attention to the minute of Council as one which seemed in some degree to draw back from the amount of liberty and encouragement which Government were giving to the cause of technical and scientific education. He pointed out how Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford, and all Lancashire were aware that the maintenance of the commercial position of the country depended in a very great degree upon the way in which we cultivate and help the art and science of our manufactures. Government had been encouraging this, but now another turn had occurred. Some diminution in the rate to teachers of science had been made, and it was also discouraging to have frequent changes in the regulations as to the rates of payment. If it was the universal feeling that any change had arisen which was unfair or vexatious, let them not exaggerate or misrepresent anything, but go up to South Kensington or to Downing-street with a perfectly good case. They would demand confidently, and with the general sympathy of all engaged in industrial pursuits throughout the country, that, for the sake of commerce, of manufactures, and of agriculture itself—for the sake of agriculture most distinctly—that the encouragement given to scientific instruction should be kept up and increased rather than diminished. The work must be done by the efforts of the friends of scientific education mainly, but the Government should give that liberal encouragement which, more than anything else, would tend to bring forth effort on the part of the people.

Dr. Pankhurst, of Manchester, moved a resolution to the effect that State aid should be liberally given to the promotion of this object, and he showed that the existing Government arrangements laboured under three fatal defects. What was temporary now must be made permanent, what was defective must be made comprehensive and complete, and what was partial must be made universal. There must be a sound system of primary instruction; and when elementary instruction was universal and free, when scientific instruction came to be given as one of the needs of the nation, there could be no doubt that the nation would keep prosperous and wealthy.

Mr. Huth, of Huddersfield, seconded the resolution, saying that technical education was not standing still on the Continent, but everything was being done to improve the splendid schools of science and art already formed there.

Alderman Rumney, of Manchester, supported the resolution, and it was carried.

Mr. H. H. Sales, agent to the Yorkshire Board of Education, referred to the constant changes in the Science and Art department, and proposed that steps be immediately taken to urge upon the Government the adoption of articles 150 and 151 of the Revised Code as standing minutes of the Science and Art Department.

Mr. Dixon, of Wakefield; Mr. Shaw, secretary to the East Lancashire Union; Mr. John Holmes, of Leeds; Mr. Marriott, of Huddersfield; and Mr. Traice, one of the Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes, having addressed the meeting, Mr. Gaunt, of Leeds, said it was most unfair that South Kensington should get £120,000 annually, and that the whole country should only get £26,000, of which £10,000 was to be taken off.

The second resolution having been adopted, the meeting separated.

Madame Georges Sand has read to the artists of the Odéon her comedy of "L'Autre," which will be brought out about Feb. 15.

A Cape letter of Dec. 18 says:—"Diamonds are being found in large quantities. No fewer than 200 diamonds arrived in Port Elizabeth by one post last week."

Intelligence from Hayti announces that the revolutionary leader Saget has been installed as provisional president of the Republic. Salnave has been shot.

The Russian Government has decreed a considerable extension of the railway system in the Caucasus and elsewhere, in order to open up the country and promote trade.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* notes that the year 1869 has been very fatal to theatres. Ten have been destroyed during that time—the theatres of Glasgow, Hull, Durham, and Cologne, the Theatre of Liberty at Malaga and of Flora at Cologne, the Opera-House at Dayton (Ohio, United States), the Theatre Royal of Dresden, the Gaiety Theatre at Milwaukee (Wisconsin, United States), and the Hippodrome at Paris.

On and after Feb. 1 the weight allowed for a single letter forwarded via France addressed to any place in Austria, or forwarded via France and Austria addressed to any place in Turkey, Moldavia, Wallachia, Servia, or Egypt, will be increased from $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. to $\frac{3}{4}$ oz.; letters above that weight being charged with an additional rate of postage for each $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. or fraction of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. No alteration will be made in the rates in consequence of this augmentation of weight.

The equity suit of "Clarke v. Edgar" came before Vice-Chancellor Malins on Thursday. The plaintiff, a well-known comedian, sought to restrain the defendant, the lessee of Sadler's Wells, from producing the comic drama "Toodles" at his theatre. Mr. Clarke's contention was that the play performed at Sadler's Wells was identical with that of which he was the registered proprietor. The defendant consented to the issue of a perpetual injunction, without costs.

Under a new Act, trade premises, under the care of a servant only, are exempt from the inhabited house duty.

Official intimation is given that the telegraphs will be taken over altogether by the Government on Feb. 5. At eight o'clock on the morning of that day the shilling rate will begin. Until that hour the telegraphs will be worked by the officers of the existing companies.

The Board of Trade has awarded a telescope to Captain Gustave Lundquist, of the Russian barque Solon, of Brahasstadt, in acknowledgment of his humanity and kindness in rescuing from the boats the crew and passengers (fifty-five in all) of the steam-ship Gambia, of Aberdeen, which vessel was abandoned at sea, in a sinking state, on Jan. 6.

The Earl of Denbigh writes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* from Rome, contradicting some of its correspondent's reports as to alleged incidents in the "Council Chamber." "Some of the English Bishops have," he says, "declared to him that they did not think that the *Times* had, so far, narrated one true story connected with the Council." The Earl of Winchelsea points to the remedy—"the employment of an organised staff of reporters."

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL

TRANSACTIONS.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The long-talked-of Russian loan has at length been placed on the market by Messrs. Rothschild. It is for the nominal amount of £12,000,000, and bears interest at the rate of 5 per cent. The price of issue is 80, and 25 per cent must accompany applications, and £15 per cent must be paid on allotment, the remainder to be paid in five instalments, the last of which will fall due on Oct. 6. The bonds will be redeemed at par by annual drawings extending over eighty-one years. The proceeds of the loan are to be entirely devoted to the construction of railways for the development of the resources of the country. The loan has been well received, and has been dealt in at from 2½ to 2¾ prem.

The fortnightly settlement, which has been much heavier than many of its immediate predecessors, has principally absorbed the attention of the members of the house. Apart, however, from the transactions necessary for the adjustment of the same, a fair amount of business has been concluded in Railway Stocks and Foreign Bonds. Consols have been flat and easier, at 92½ to 93½ for Money and the February Account; Reduced and New Three per Cents, 92½ to 93½; Exchequer Bills, March, 1s. dis. to 4s. prem.; and June, 1s. dis. to 4s. prem.; Bank Stock has marked 238 to 240; India Five per Cents have been done at 11½ to 112, and India Bonds 20s. to 25s. prem.

Colonial Government Securities have been purchased quietly, and prices have been without change of importance:—Canada, 1877-84, 103½ to 104½; Ditto Five per Cents, 94½ to 95½; New South Wales Five per Cents, 1871-6, 100½ to 101½; New Zealand Six per Cents, 1891, 107 to 108; Ditto Five per Cents, 93 to 97; Queensland Six per Cents, 1882-5, 105½ to 106½; South Australian Six per Cents, 1893 to 1898, 110 to 111; and Victoria Six per Cents, 1891, 112½ to 113½.

On the whole, the tone of the market for English Railway Stocks has been healthy. The principal movement has been in Great Western, which shows a rise of 2. Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire is 1 better, and the value of most other lines has ruled firm. Indian Stocks have been quiet. Canadian and Foreign Shares have sold slowly.

Ordinary Shares and Stock:—Caledonian, 77½ to 77½; Great Eastern, 37 to 37½; Great Northern, 111 to 112; Ditto, A, 112 to 112½; Great Western, 63½ to 64½; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 128 to 128½; London and Brighton, 45½ to 45½; London and North-Western, 124 to 124½; London and South-Western, 92 to 94; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 52½ to 53½; Metropolitan, 78½ to 78½; Midland, 122½ to 123; North-Eastern, 125½ to 125½; Ditto, Leeds, 83 to 84; Ditto, York, 123 to 124; and South-Eastern 76½ to 76½.

British Possessions.—Bombay, Baroda, and Central India, 105 to 106; East India, 109½ to 110½; Grand Trunk of Canada, 14½ to 14½; Great Indian Peninsula, 107½ to 108½; Great Western of Canada, 15½ to 15½; Oude and Rohilkand, 104½ to 105½; and Scinde, 104½ to 105½.

Foreign.—Great Luxembourg, 131 to 131½; Recife and San Francisco, 15½ to 15½; and South-Australian and Lombardo-Venetian, 19½ to 20.

A fair amount of animation has been noticed in the Market for Foreign Bonds, and the quotations have ruled firm, but no important change has taken place:—Argentine, 1868, 85 to 86; Brazilian, 1865, 87½ to 88½; Egyptian, 1868, 76½ to 77½; Ditto, Government Railway Debentures, 57 to 58; Mexican, 15 to 15½; Peruvian, 1865, 72½ to 73; Portuguese, 1869, 32½ to 33½; Russian, 1862, 85 to 86; Ditto, Anglo-Dutch, 89 to 91; Ditto, Nicolas Railway, 66 to 66½; Spanish, 1867, 27½ to 28; Turkish, 1865, 66 to 67; Ditto Five per Cents, 43½ to 44½; and Italian, 1861, 54½ to 55.

American Securities have been in moderate request, at steady currencies. The 5-20, 1882, Bonds have been done at 86½ to 87½; Ditto, 1885, 86½ to 87; Ditto, 1887, 85½ to 86; 10-40, 84½ to 84½; Atlantic and Great Western Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, 25 to 26; Erie Shares, 17½ to 18½; and Illinois Central, 103 to 104.

Bank Shares have been dealt in to a fair extent, and the quotations have ruled firm. Agra, A., 11½ to 12½; Alliance, 12½ to 13½; Anglo-Egyptian, 24½ to 25; Imperial Ottoman, 21 to 23 prem.; London and County, 59 to 51; London Joint-Stock, 33½ to 34½; London and Westminster, 60 to 61; and Union of London, 25½ to 33½.

Telegraph Shares have commanded a fair amount of attention, and the quotations have ruled firm:—Anglo-American, 19½ to 20; Atlantic, 15 to 17; British Indian Submarine, 15 to 15½; Falmouth, Gibraltar, and Malta, 3½ to 4 prem.; Mediterranean Extension, 8½ to 9½; United Kingdom, 7 to 8; and West India and Panama, par to ½ prem.

The feature in the Market for Miscellaneous Securities has been the heavy rise in the value of Indian Rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works, the quotation being 57 to 58. Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Shares, also, have been firm, at 38½ to 39. Credit Foncier of England have been done at 21½ to 21½; General Credit and Discount, 2 to 2½; Hudson's Bay, 12 to 12½; National Discount, 11½ to 12; and Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 45 to 47.

There has been a strong demand for money during the week, both at the Bank of England and in the general market, activity being promoted by the Stock Exchange settlement and by the maturing of a large number of Indian and American bills. The Bank directors have failed to make any alteration in the official minimum, but there is a growing opinion in commercial circles that a long time will not elapse before an advance will be inevitable. It is contended that the introduction of the Russian loan, coupled with the desire daily becoming more manifest to foster fresh enterprises, and the increased animation noticed in the manufacturing districts, will produce an amount of stringency in the market which the additions made to the supply of capital seeking employment by the payment of the money by the Government to the telegraph companies will fail to entirely remove; and the tendency will be towards a higher range in the value of money. In Lombard-street the rates for negotiating three-months' paper have ruled firm, at 2½ to 3 per cent.

On the Continent the demand for money has been moderately active, and the rates have ruled firm.

The bullion arrivals during the week have been only moderate; and, as the export inquiry has been strong, upwards of £250,000 has been withdrawn from the Bank, principally on account of the Turkish Loan, for shipment. However, about £400,000 will arrive in the course of a few days. Advances from Melbourne, dated the 4th inst., state that the Malta takes to Gallo £87,000 from Sydney, and £479,000 from Melbourne. The following gold-ships have sailed for England since the departure of last mail:—The Great Victoria, with £10,000; the

Helmsdale, with £9000; the Janet Court, with £8260; the Essex, with £10,000; and the Alexander Duthie, with £10,100.

The silver market has been quieter:—Bars, 60½d. to 60½d.; and Mexican dollars, 59½d. to 59½d. per oz. As regards the exchange, bills have been in moderate request, but the rates have been without material alteration. The rate of exchange at New York on London is 109½.

The directors of the London and Provincial Marine Insurance have issued a report showing a balance to the credit of income of £109,077. A dividend at the rate of 10 per cent per annum is recommended, and an addition of £20,000 to the reserve fund.

The old-established private banking-house of Messrs. David La Touche and Co., of Dublin, is about to be amalgamated with the Munster Bank (Limited), an establishment formed five years ago, with a nominal capital of £500,000, of which £175,000 is paid up.

At a meeting of Peruvian Bondholders it was resolved that the holders of Peruvian Bonds at this meeting protest against the departure, either in letter or spirit, from the tenor of the Bonds of 1862 and 1865; that a committee be formed for the purpose of protecting the rights of the bondholders, with power to add to their number, and to demand, in the name of the bondholders, such documents and other information as may be for the common benefit. That Messrs. G. P. Kennard, William Smith, William Whiteside, Edward Haslewood, John Field, Robert Martin, and J. Gerstenberg form such a committee.

The report of the Indian Rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works Company (Limited), to be presented on Feb. 1, shows an available total of £54,123. A dividend of £4 10s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent per annum is recommended, which will absorb £31,944, and leave a balance of £22,184.

The report of the Land Securities Company (Limited), to be presented on Feb. 3, shows an available balance of £3885. A dividend at the rate of 4 per cent per annum is recommended.

The report of the Universal Marine Insurance Company (Limited), to be presented on Feb. 3, shows that the net premiums for the year have been £211,933. A dividend of 7s. 6d. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, is recommended.

The report of the General Credit and Discount Company, to be presented on Feb. 4, shows an available balance of £78,102. A dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum is recommended, which will absorb £37,500, and leave, after an appropriation of £30,000 to the reserve, £10,602 to be carried forward.

The directors of the United Land Company recommend a dividend and bonus at the rate of 10 per cent per annum.

A meeting has been held of the National Bank, and the directors' report has been adopted. It was shown that the balance available for distribution was £56,908. A dividend of 18s. per share, being at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, free of income tax, was declared, which will absorb £45,000.

At a meeting of the London and St. Katharine Docks Company it was shown that the profits for the half year were £73,671. A dividend of 1½ per cent, free of income tax, was announced.

At the annual meeting of the British and Marine Insurance Company (Limited) of Liverpool a dividend at the rate of 20 per cent per annum was declared, and it was also resolved to add £100,000 to the capital of the company.

The North-Western Bank of Liverpool has declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, carrying forward £20,000 to the reserve fund.

The directors of the Port Philip and Colonial Gold Mining Company have declared a dividend at the rate of 12½ per cent per annum.

The directors of the Mwyndy Iron Ore Company have declared a dividend of 5s. per share.

The directors of the London Steam-Ship Company have declared a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum.

THE MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE (Monday).—There was only a small supply of English wheat on sale here to-day, but the condition of the samples was much improved. The demand for all qualities, however, was very inactive, and inferior descriptions tended downwards in value. Foreign wheat met a dull retail inquiry, on barely former terms. Fine malting barley was steady in value, but secondary parcels were lower to sell. The malt trade was inactive, at stationary quotations. There was a good supply of oats, but sound corn changed hands freely, at full currencies. Beans and peas were depressed, and were difficult of sale, even at a reduction of 1s. per quarter. In flour there was little doing, and Norfolk sacks could be bought on easier terms.

Wednesday.—There was no feature of importance in the grain trade to-day. Wheat changed hands slowly, at the quotations current on Monday last, and the general tone of the market was dull. Spring corn of all descriptions was inactive, with the exception of oats, which sold at full rates. In flour there was very little doing.

Arrivals this Week.—English and Scotch: Wheat, 810; barley, 1280; malt, 2170; beans, 200; peas, 70 qrs. Foreign: Wheat, 6670; barley, 570; oats, 13,75; maize, 16,200 qrs.; flour, 1830 sacks.

Averages of Grain.—Wheat, 58,492 qrs. sold, at an average price of 45s. 6d.; barley, 61,910 qrs., at 36s. 2d.; oats, 4761 qrs., at 20s. 10d. per qr.

Bread.—The present prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 7½d.; and of household ditto from 5½d. to 6½d. per 4-lb. loaf.

Seeds.—Linsed has been quiet, but rapeseed has been firm. In agricultural seeds the business doing has been only moderate; nevertheless, prices have been fairly maintained.

New white turnip, 15s. to 18s.; swede, 18s. to 19s. per bushel; foreign tares, 38s. to 40s.; canary, 55s. to 60s. per quarter; coriander, 16s. to 20s.; hempseed, 44s. to 49s.; linsed, English, sowing, 68s. to 70s.; ditto, crushing, 60s. to 64s.; rapeseed, 60s. to 66s. per quarter; linsed cakes, English, 211 0s. to 211 15s.; ditto foreign, 210 0s. to 211 10s.; rape cakes, 22 10s. to 27 10s. per ton.

Tea.—Firmness has been the feature of the market, and prices have been well maintained.

Sugar.—Raw sugar has sold heavily; but prices have been supported. Refined goods, with a slow inquiry, have sold at full rates.

Coffee.—The transactions have been on a full average scale, and extreme rates have been obtained for all descriptions.

Butter.—The trade has been quiet, at about late rates. The quantity offered has been equal to the demand. Bacon has been dull and easier. Lard has been quiet. Hams have been in moderate request. For cheese the inquiry has ruled heavy.

Hay and Straw.—The trade has been dull, as follows:—Prime meadow hay, 80s. to 85s.; inferior ditto, 60s. to 70s.; Rowen, 50s. to 70s.; prime clover, 120s. to 130s.; inferior ditto, 100s. to 110s.; prime second-cut clover, 140s. to 110s.; inferior ditto, 80s. to 90s.; straw, 22s. to 24s. per load.

Spirits.—There has been a moderate inquiry for rum, at about late rates. Brandy has been quiet, but firm.

Wool.—Firmness has been the feature of the market, although the demand for either Colonial or English wool has not been active.

Potatoes.—The supplies have been good. The trade has been dull, as follows:—English Shaws, 75s. to 85s.; Regents, 85s. to 100s.; Rocks, 65s. to 70s.; Scotch Regents, 70s. to 100s.; and French, 65s. to 70s. per ton.

Hops.—In consequence of the paucity of English and foreign produce, the market has been very firm, and the late advance has been well maintained. Mid and East Kents are selling at £7 to £13 per cwt.

Oils.—Linsed oil is quieter, at 229 10s. to 229 15s., on the spot. Rape has been very firm, at £41, on the spot. Olive oil has been steady; Mogadore, 25½.

Tallow.—The demand has been steadier, with buyers at 4s. per cwt. for Y.C. spot and March.

Coals.—Newcastle, 15s. to 17s. 6d.; Sunderland, 16s. 9d. to 19s. 6d.; Hartlepool and West Hartlepool, 18s. to 19s. 6d. per ton.

Metropolitan Meat Market.—Beef from 3s. to 4s. 10d.; mutton, 3s. 8d. to 5s.; veal, 5s. to 5s. 4d.; and pork, 4s. to 5s. 8d. per 11b. by the carcass.

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M. HENRI ROCHEFORT.

The trial of M. Henri Rochefort, proprietor and editor of the *Marseillaise* and deputy of the First Electoral District of Paris to the Corps Législatif, for a seditious and calumnious libel, took place on Saturday last, before the Tribunal of Correctional Police. He refused to appear or plead, and was therefore sentenced by default to six months' imprisonment and a fine of 3000f. Two of his colleagues in offensive journalism, M. Paschal Grousset and another, were sentenced, the former to pay a fine of 2000f., the latter 500f., with the same term of imprisonment. Notice of appeal to a higher Court has been given by M. Rochefort. The libels complained of were some of the articles reviling the Emperor and his family, upon the occasion of the act of homicide perpetrated, on the 10th inst., by Prince Pierre Bonaparte, at Auteuil—Victor Noir, the unfortunate young man who was shot, being one of the staff of the *Marseillaise*. Our Paris Correspondent's letter will treat of the probable consequences of this affair. As for M. Henri Rochefort, who has been a conspicuous personage in the political disputes of the French metropolis during the last twelvemonth, as John Wilkes was in London more than a hundred years ago, his portrait is here engraved. He owes his reputation, such as it is, more to the lack of moral consistency on the side which he assails than to any great moral or intellectual force of his own; but he is a glib dealer in bitterly sarcastic phrases, and the most unscrupulous of French literary stabbers. M. Rochefort, or de Rochefort, as he ought to be called, being of aristocratic birth and heir to the title of Marquis, has not always been such a vehement Republican and Democrat as he just now professes to be. It is not long since he was attached to the Orleanist party, and he has paid his respects to the exiled Royal Princes in England. He was a contributor to the *Figaro*, a writer of theatrical and art criticism, and author of smart comic pieces for the stage. About a year and a half ago he began to issue the *Lanterne*, a weekly pamphlet filled by his own pen with the fiercest and most virulent abuse of the Emperor Napoleon, the Empress, the Court, the Ministry, and all belonging to the Empire. The *Lanterne* was suppressed, and Rochefort fled to Belgium, under a sentence of one year's imprisonment and a fine of 10,000f. But he continued to write, and his writings were printed, and clandestinely sold in France. The firm, bold, and honest behaviour of the Moderate Liberal party in the Corps Législatif, early in the summer of last year, followed by the result of the general elections, induced the Emperor to quit the course of Absolutism, and to adopt a constitutional government. A section, however, of the extreme Opposition, represented in the press by some popular Democratic writers, declared that they would never forgive him for being a Bonaparte, and for having once usurped despotic power. They called themselves "The Irreconcilables," and refused to accept any guarantees of political liberty till Napoleon III. should be dethroned. The loudest and the most acrimonious of this faction was Rochefort. He came before the Paris electors in November, avowedly as the "Revolutionary and Socialist candidate," promising to abolish all standing armies and all churches and clergy, to relieve the working classes from all taxation, and to give them the appointment, by universal suffrage, of all public officials. He was elected by 17,000 votes against 13,000 polled for his competitor, M. Carnot; and it will be remembered how he came to Paris, braving the judicial sentence, and was arrested on his way to appear before the electors, and how the Emperor ordered his instant release. But Rochefort is no orator; his presence and speech are not imposing; and since he has become a member of the Legislative Chamber he seems to have lost much of his former influence with the populace. He has a daily paper now for the utterance of his merciless malice; but other writers, of



M. HENRI ROCHEFORT.

no less dialectic and literary skill—M. Victor Hugo and his two sons in the *Rappel*, and M. Felix Pyat—compete with him for the profits of Republican journalism; and he has not the tongue of Gambetta to make himself heard, nor the physical courage to lead a street insurrection, which he vainly affects to invoke. The recent affair at Auteuil with the prosecution for libel, may therefore have furnished him with a convenient means of refreshing his faded personal notoriety; but the Parisian mob soon gets tired of its playthings, and will again presently cast him aside.

The Portrait is from a photograph by M. Disderi.

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN FRONTIER.

The revolt of the French and Indian half-breed population in the Red River and Lake Winnipeg district of North America, several hundred miles west of Lake Superior, is rather a troublesome affair. This district is part of the Hudson's Bay Company's vast territory, which has lately been transferred to the Dominion of Canada. The insurrection hitherto has been confined to the neighbourhood of Lake Winnipeg, from which the British Canadians have been expelled;

the Governor, Mr. Macdougall, has been obliged to return to Canada, and Fort Garry remains in the possession of the rebels. It is thought these were instigated by some of the French priests to resist the establishment of the Canadian Government, but the Vicar-General of Quebec, accompanied by Colonel de Salaberry, himself a half-breed, has gone to the Red River country to use his influence on the side of loyalty and to persuade the Winnipeg people to lay down their arms. Another influence to be noted in stirring up the insurrection and keeping it alive is that of American annexationists at Pembina, co-operating with others engaged in business at Red River. Pembina is a settlement of three or four log-houses on the Dakota side of the frontier, where every white resident but one is said to hold an office of some sort or other. Besides the few residents, there has been an Illinois lawyer, who is described as "running the machine" in the interests of annexation. All the American versions of the affair have come from him. Hence the exaggerated stories about the Indians being called to arms, for which there has been no foundation except in the circumstance that Colonel Dennis garrisoned the Stone Fort in the Lower Settlement with fifty Swamp Indians, an inoffensive set of semi-civilised half-breeds who live by farming in that neighbourhood. It has, of course, been the policy of the annexationists to lead the American people and Government to believe that Canadian officials have been inciting the Indians to take up arms. The most recent canard of this sort has been that Macdougall bribed the Sioux to make a descent on Pembina, in revenge for the conduct of the people there. If the trouble should continue, and should tend towards annexation, there certainly would be reason to look for a movement of the Indians in that direction. This, however, could not be owing to Canadian influence, but to the fears of the Indians themselves, who naturally dread the prospect of their being brought under American sway.

We have to thank Major G. Seton, who was lately in that part of the world, for a View of the plains near Pembina, with the boundary-post there erected to mark the frontier between the United States and the British territory of Rupert's Land. The boundless level of rich grass is here traversed by the road, or track, which appears in the foreground. Major Seton's sketch is also an illustration of the habits and costumes of the Cree Indians. These are represented as walking in procession, headed by the Medicine Man, with the sacred rattle in hand, round an inclosure of willow branches, within which is celebrated a "Dog Feast," so called from their eating dogs on the occasion, and being a mixture of religious ceremony and social mirth. In the half-distance are their tents, made of dressed bison (called buffalo) leather, with their badges or armorial bearings painted upon them, beside which stand their carts, made without a particle of iron, and which are very strong and so light as to be serviceable as rafts when deep water has to be crossed. In the foreground is a group of two young Indians in their gala costume, with their dogs, which in winter are used to drag sledges.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE IN ST. PETER'S.

The Special Artist of this Journal, appointed to supply the Illustrations of the Ecumenical Council at Rome, has furnished two of the scenes in St. Peter's Cathedral on the morning of Christmas Day, one of which was published a fortnight ago, representing the Pope as he was carried in his "gestatorial chair." The other forms the large Engraving in the middle pages of this Number, which displays the scene at the high altar, and in that portion of the church occupied by the seats of the prelates forming the Council, at the moment when the Pope was engaged in the principal act of the religious service.

It will perhaps be needful to mention that, in St. Peter's, and in all the ancient Basilicas, the high altar is placed, not close to



BOUNDARY-POST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND RUPERT'S LAND, AT PEMBINA, RED RIVER.

the end of the choir or chancel, as usual, but in advance of the choir, and, as it were, in the middle of the church, so that the celebrating priest does not turn round, as usual, to salute the people at the "Dominus Vobiscum" (The Lord be with you), but says those words over the altar. This form, therefore, is not peculiar to the Papal mass; but many other ceremonies are so, of which, perhaps, the chief is that the Pope returns to his throne in the middle of the mass, and there, kneeling, awaits the Subdeacon and Cardinal Deacon, who respectively bring the host and the chalice to give communion to the Pope. He, as celebrant, receives communion standing (not sitting, as some have said), and afterwards gives communion to the Cardinals, Deacons, to the Senator and Conservators of Rome, and others. Another ceremony used now only at the Pope's mass, although once it was usual at all Bishops' solemn masses, and is still ordered in the ceremonial, is that of "pregustation," or the tasting beforehand of the breads or wafers and of the wine to be used by the Pope—a custom which speaks of those barbarous times when even the sanctuary and altar were not exempt from the occasional fear of conspiracy and fraud. Similarly, the carrying of the Pope in his chair, and many other ceremonies, were of old practices in common use for all great personages, and are kept up by the Roman Church—the conservative institution *par excellence*—while given up elsewhere, except in some cases in the courts of sovereigns.

The moment chosen by our Artist for his sketch is that when the Pope stood at the high altar, in the act of elevating the consecrated chalice, while before him, arranged on the steps of the altar, knelt the various ministering clergy, from the Cardinal Deacons, Antonelli and Cappalti, and the Cardinal Priest Assistant, Patrizi, with the prelates of the Court, the chamberlains, lay and clerical, the auditors and clerks of the chamber, down to the torch-bearers and ushers, with their silver maces. In long lines beyond, extending from the altar to the Papal throne, knelt the College of Cardinals, with their train-bearers, and behind them six or seven hundred Archbishops and Bishops of the various Western and Oriental rites. The Guardia Nobile, in their handsome uniforms, with their sword-points to the pavement, and with their left hands raised to their helmets, knelt and saluted at the elevation of the host and of the chalice. The rich variety of brilliant costumes worn by the various officers of the Court, of the foreign Sovereigns and diplomatic corps, and officers in uniform, cannot be fully rendered in an Engraving; nor can the swelling tones of the far-famed "silver trumpets," as they are popularly called, be heard elsewhere than in St. Peter's. But our Engraving is a faithful and spirited representation of the chief phase of a splendid spectacle, which cannot be surpassed at any other time or place.

MUSIC.

The third of the Oratorio Concerts, last week, brought forward Haydn's "Seasons," after an interval which rendered doubly acceptable a hearing of that composer's closing great work—one which will bear comparison with any of his previous productions, although it was only completed towards its illustrious author's seventieth year. The general preference and more frequent repetition of "The Creation" is among the anomalies of public musical taste, as is also the comparative shelving of Mendelssohn's "St. Paul" in favour of his "Elijah"—this, however, being a preference of a later over an earlier work; the case being reversed with respect to Haydn's two great compositions. "The Creation," finished when he was nearly sixty-six, is, perhaps, intrinsically as fine a work as "The Seasons," but the high requirements of such a subject were beyond the composer's grasp; whereas "The Seasons," with its pastoral imagery and its simple human sentiment, offered a theme which was eminently calculated for illustration by one of the most genial, if not the most sublime, of composers. The tone of contented thankfulness which pervades the work is charmingly reflective of the bright unfaded imagination and glad repose of the "old man eloquent," whose long and active career had stamped an ineffaceable impress on his art, and had earned a richly-merited competence in his old age. Not only is "The Seasons" full of beauty and grace, but there are instances of masterly science and vigorous power that would have been admirable as the product of any earlier period of Haydn's career. The choral writing offers several instances of these contrasted beauties, particularly the invocation to the coming spring, the "Hunting" and "Spinning" choruses, and that depicting the raging of the tempest. One very characteristic chorus, that of the "Vintage," was omitted in the performance referred to. The soprano solos belonging to the character of Jane were sung by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, who fulfils the requirements of Haydn's music more thoroughly than those of the sublimer Handel. She was especially successful in the airs "O, how pleasing," "Light and life," the spinning song, and the "Squire song," with their choral refrains. The music of the lusty farmer Simon was capably sung by Mr. Lewis Thomas, who gave the bass song "With joy th' impatient husbandman" with much character, and was greatly applauded in this as, indeed, in other instances. Mr. Vernon Rigby, who was to have given the tenor music of the young rustic Lucas, was too ill to appear, and was replaced by Mr. Byron, who acquitted himself very creditably in a task of no slight difficulty at somewhat sudden notice. The large choir of Mr. Joseph Barnby, who conducted, was heard to advantage in the many choruses which occur in the work. It is to be hoped that the performance will be repeated, in which case Mr. Barnby will do well to reconsider the exaggerated speed at which he took several of the movements.

The third of the Saturday Evening Concerts, last week, was so fully attended as to leave no doubt of the success of a scheme which surely ought to be remunerative if energy and costly enterprise in a right direction deserve to be so. Exeter Hall was crowded in every part, and well it might be at the low prices of admission charged to hear some fine orchestral pieces, including Beethoven's first symphony, and Auber's overture to "Masaniello," played by a capital band; the finest of living tenors (need we say Mr. Sims Reeve?) singing his best; besides other admirable vocal performances by Madame Sinico, Mr. Santley, and Signor Foli; and the brilliant violin playing of Herr Wilhelmj. The last-named artist confirmed the success which he had obtained on his reappearance at the previous concert. His two solos last Saturday were Ernst's fantasia on themes from "Otello," and an adaptation of an air from a "suite" by Bach, with accompaniments for the orchestral stringed instruments. In the former piece Herr Wilhelmj's pure tone and dexterous execution of elaborate mechanical difficulties were again generally admired and applauded. Of his higher powers of expression we shall be glad to be convinced by his rendering of some great work of more sterling importance than the pieces in which he has been heard since his recent return to England. The encores at the concert were numerous, and the signs of success indisputable.

The Sacred Harmonic Society gave "Elijah" yesterday (Friday) week, when Madame Sinico again appeared in her recently-adopted career of an oratorio singer, with a success which should lead to her continuance therein and further assiduous study of the works usually performed. Of the fine singing of Madame Sainton-Dolby in the contralto solos, and of Mr. Santley, in the all-important music assigned to the Prophet, it is unnecessary again to speak; as it is likewise of the splendid effect of the choruses, or of the masterly conducting of S'r Michael Costa. Mr. Vernon Rigby, who was ill, was replaced with much efficiency by Mr. G. Perren in the tenor solos.

At the last Monday Popular Concert Mr. F. H. Cowen made his first appearance there as solo pianist, his principal performance having been Beethoven's sonata pathétique, which he gave with much power and impulse and great command of mechanism. Of Mr. Cowen's talents and acquirements, both as a composer and a pianist, and of his progress in each respect, we have more than once spoken in high terms. His performance on Monday night, in the piece just mentioned and in Mozart's duet sonata (with violin), was received with much applause. Herr Straus was again the leading violin, Madame Norman-Néruda having been too ill to make her promised reappearance in that capacity. The singer was Miss Edith Wynne, and the accompanist, as usual, Mr. Benedict.

M. Gottschalk (whose death, at Rio Janeiro, in December last, has already been announced) had earned a special name as a brilliant pianist, and as a composer of elegant drawing-room pieces for that instrument—his music for which had a wide popularity. Besides his numerous published works, M. Gottschalk leaves much behind him in manuscript.

THE THEATRES.

THE LYCEUM.

The Lyceum reopened on Saturday under a new management, that of Messrs. Mansell, who appear desirous of devoting their establishment to certain forms of irregular composition, such as comedy-drama and opéra-bouffe, of which that evening they presented examples. Mrs. Keeley also was invited to visit the boards over which she had once ruled, and deliver an address, written by Mr. John Oxenford, applicable to the occasion. The theatre has been cleaned and decorated, the gilding retouched, and the colouring revived or improved, so that the interior now presents a lively and cheerful appearance. These alterations have been effected by Mr. Mackintosh. Mr. W. Hann, also, has painted a new act-drop, with figures by Mr. Gray, which is a really pleasing specimen of art. The authorship and management are evidently allied, for we find Mr. K. Mansell's name as one of the three adapters of the opera, and Mr. F. A. Marshall's name as the second in the same triad, and also as the author of the introductory comedy-drama. We may, therefore, infer that the theatre reopens as a close borough, and offers but little temptation to those authors who now complain of exclusion from the other theatres, which profess to be more open, but are really managed on the same principle.

Mr. Marshall's drama is in two acts, and entitled "Corrupt Practices." A large amount of political feeling is betrayed in the composition, which gives more than usual animation to the dialogue, and tends to extend it beyond reasonable limits. According to the bills, the piece should have been over before nine o'clock, but it exceeded the term by nearly half an hour, and thus severely tried the patience of the audience, who naturally were in a fever of expectation for the opera that was to follow. No doubt either that the drama was too long for the subject of it, and the second act might have been reduced one half with advantage. Let this be done, and the first act besides somewhat compressed, and the piece possesses sufficient merit to deserve attention, albeit it must then be confessed that the argument is, in parts, repulsive. The leading part in it is that of Basil Durant, rather coarsely but effectively enough sustained by Mr. George Vincent, a confirmed drunkard, who was in early life intended for Parliament in the Conservative interest, and endeavoured to obtain a seat by bribery and corruption. He was foiled by reason of his intemperance and folly. Nevertheless, he is proud of the reminiscence, and a wheelbarrow in which he had been conveyed round the town is retained as a cherished portion of his drawing-room furniture. His income, derived from his daughter's fortune, is small; and the poor girl, Sibylla Durant (Miss Fitz-Inman), is forced to exert her talents as an artist to increase it, for which she is insulted by her father, who nevertheless is willing to receive the wages of her so-called degradation, with which he purchases champagne. The young lady is helped in the sale of her drawings by a young Radical politician, Edward Jekyll (Mr. G. F. Neville), who is in love with her; but her father prefers another suitor, Sir Victor Dutton Pearlstone, Bart., M.P. (Mr. Coghlan), a cool, calculating villain, already secretly married to Mary Greame (Miss Louisa Thorne), and to whom Sibylla is affianced at the conclusion of the first act. This action is developed in a series of conversations, brilliant enough in themselves, but without that desirable "brevity" which is proverbially "the soul of wit." We strongly advise that "the limbs and outward flourishes," which conduce no little to the "tediousness," should be unsparingly lopped off, and have no doubt that the tree will grow all the better for the pruning. The second act shows us that the marriage has been unhappy. The father's habitual ebriety has disgusted Sir Victor, who turns the old man ignominiously out of his house, and then maliciously informs Sibylla that he is a bigamist, that she is not his real wife, that he discards her, having spent all her money, and, being ruined, that he now defies the world. Young Jekyll appears at the crisis to protect her, and Sir Victor challenges him to an instant duel with pistols. Meanwhile, the police have been appealed to, and enter with Mary Greame. They turn the Baronet's pistol on himself, who falls. His former wife acts as his "ministering angel" in his last moments, and the curtain descends on an effective tableau. The characters, which are distinctly and elaborately drawn, were cleverly interpreted by their various representatives, who were resumptioned at the end; and the author himself passed over the stage, frowning angrily, because of the impatience that had previously prevailed in the stalls, of which he had himself been an occupant.

The opéra-bouffe of "Chilpéric" followed, by Hervé, the French composer, who has been engaged to appear as the hero of his own work. The work itself has proved so successful on the Parisian stage, and the music has been so authoritatively commended for its elegance, that it were superfluous to subject it now to fresh criticism. The dialogue throughout is intentionally absurd, and the action as grotesque as it could well be made. The latter can be briefly told. Chilpéric, King of the Gauls, hunting in the forest of Soissons, encounters a party of Druids engaged in the mysterious celebration of the mistletoe, and falls in love with a young shepherdess, named Frédégonde (Miss Emily Muir), whom, with her peasant lover, Landry (M. Marius), he takes to Court. After a time he is compelled to marry a Spanish Princess, and Frédégonde has to be dismissed. She packs up her things and passes with them through his reception-hall, while his bride and her brother are present, and throws the whole party into confusion. Burlesque action here abounds, and some striking dramatic music brings the second act to a riotous termination. In the third act Chilpéric is thrown into difficulties by an attack made on his kingdom by his enemies, incited by Frédégonde; but the amorous Monarch goes forth bravely to battle, and wins the victory. Hilarious to the last, he pardons the offenders, and orders a national anthem to be sung, with which the piece noisily and merrily concludes. The scenery of the two pieces is by Mr. W. Brew and Messrs. Grieve and Son, and does great credit to the respective artists.

THE QUEEN'S.

The recent augmentation in the number of theatres has at length begun to induce the reformation which the higher class of playgoers has so long seen to be needed. The very necessity for novelty has caused the reconsideration of the eligibility of the poetic drama for stage purposes. Mr. Tom Taylor, having had his way prepared by the performance of "The Fool's Revenge," has fairly tried the experiment at the Queen's, by the production of a five-act drama, on Saturday, entitled, "Twixt Axe and Crown." It is denominated an historical play, and deals with the early days of Queen Elizabeth, during the reign of her predecessor. The Protestant Princess is thus brought into contact with the Romanist Mary, and a lesson is discriminatorily given in the principles of the Reformation, which may be of use at this period. The idea of the play was suggested to Mr. Taylor by a German production on the same theme, by Madame Birch-Pfeiffer. But Mr. Taylor has made great alterations and additions, and fairly identified the subject with his own methods of working. He has introduced new characters, such as Rénard, Sir John Harrington, Isabel Markham, Paget, and Rutter, respectively acted by Mr. Ryder, Mr. W. Belford, Miss M. Henderson, Mr. H. Dalton, and Mr. C. Seyton. "An entirely original development," says Mr. Taylor, in his programme, has been given to the part of Mary. Most of the scenes in which the interest of the acts culminates, as the interview of Elizabeth and Courtenay at Ashridge and the circumstances of the arrest of Elizabeth, in the second act; the confronting of Wyatt, on his way to the block, with Courtenay in the Tower, and the plot of Rénard and Gardiner against Elizabeth's life, in the third; the scene in which Gardiner attempts to procure Elizabeth's execution on a warrant unsigned by the Queen, in the fourth; and Mary's deathbed scene, and the interview of Elizabeth and Rénard,

in the fifth, are entirely original." The dialogue, moreover, belongs to Mr. Taylor almost wholly. The basis of the plot lies in the tradition that Elizabeth loved Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, popularly known as "the White Rose," and but for his early death would have married him. He was the last descendant of the house of York, and from the age of twelve to twenty-seven was a prisoner in the Tower, by the command of Henry VIII., whence he was released by Mary at her accession. The dramatist makes him to be loved by her, and grounds her enmity to Elizabeth partly on his having rejected her overtures. All the incidents which we have implied are exceedingly well marshalled, and an interesting, if not a highly poetic, drama is the result. Some excellent new scenery has been painted for it by Mr. G. Gordon and Mr. W. Phillips, and the company has been strengthened in order to provide for its proper performance. The most prominent and important part of Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester and Lord Chancellor, was capably acted by Mr. H. Marston. He looked majestic in his age, firm in his purpose, but nervously anxious in its conduct; thus creating an interest in his favour which the audience recognised throughout. The part of Edward Courtenay was finely represented by Mr. Rousby, and that of Princess Elizabeth by his wife, whose personal attractions lent their aid to the charm with which her performance was invested. Though somewhat feeble, an artistic intelligence was present in the whole of her action, which was frequently effective and always impressive. The character of the Spanish envoy, Rénard, was admirably interpreted by Mr. Ryder; and Mr. Belford was gay as usual in Harrington, gentleman of Elizabeth's bedchamber. Mr. Rignold merits praise as Lord Chandos, Lieutenant of the Tower. Very high praise is due to Miss G. Pouncefort for her portrait of Queen Mary, which was generally forcible and full of emotion. The play is multitudinously replete with characters distinctly marked. Altogether, it is well received by the audience, and deserves to be accepted as inaugurating a higher class of new dramas than that which has hitherto prevailed, and of which the public has grown weary.

Another candidate for the office of public reader, in the person of Mrs. Lafontaine Erskine, made her debut at the Hanover-square Rooms on Tuesday evening. This lady, a pupil of Dr. Altschull, is a good level reader, but is wanting in that light and shade so necessary to relieve what must inevitably be rather monotonous in an entertainment undertaken by one individual. She was decidedly best in "The Old Woman of Berkeley," by Southey, and least satisfactory in the selections from Shakspeare. As a drawing-room reader the lady may be successful, but lacks that variety and force which is required for a large public room. Signorina De Bonco plays with a breadth of effect on the violin, which is very effective, though rather coarse. M. Julia Fontaine, who acted as pianiste, is a smooth and delicate artiste, who in time may make a name. The audience was large and fashionable.

Mr. Ferrier, another candidate for reading honours, has visited Sussex Hall during the week. He is particularly happy in his Scotch selections. "The Tailor's First and only Visit to the Theatre," by Galt, was very effective.

FINE ARTS.

DECORATIONS IN WESTMINSTER PALACE.

During the Parliamentary recess Mr. E. M. Barry has completed or forwarded several of the unfinished decorative works in Westminster Palace, and also made numerous alterations of interest, both from artistic and utilitarian points of view. The principal object of the latter has been to admit more light into the building; and this has been effected with much skill and ingenuity in a variety of ways, without detriment to the architectural forms. In the central hall and its communicating corridors, the witness-hall, and in the Royal staircase, windows have been enlarged, *grisaille* substituted for stained glass, the groined roofings pierced for lantern or other lights, blind stone-headed arches have been replaced by light screens filled with plate glass; and altogether these portions assumed a comparatively cheerful, serviceable aspect, even on a January day, without gas. The embrowned paint has also been removed from the stonework of the central hall and its corridors; and, instead thereof, a colourless, washable, preservative composition has been applied. The effect of the alterations will be to remove—or lessen, at least, as regards portions of the palace—one of the chief objections to the building—and to Gothic itself, by an unreasonable implication in the mind of many persons.

Of the new embellishments, the most important is the decoration of the central hall. The whole of the panels of the groined roof of the hall are filled with the mosaics, to which we alluded in a recent Number, representing, on a gold ground, scrolls of roses, thistles, and shamrocks, interspersed with the Royal cipher, crowns, &c. The ribs are gilded and decorated to correspond. The mosaic copy of Mr. Poynter's design—subject, "St. George"—is being fixed in one of the large panels over the four great archways of this hall. The authorities have wisely decided on intrusting one artist to prepare the four figure-subjects for these arches, uniformity of style being extremely desirable under such conditions; and we feel assured that the designs in their mosaic reproductions will be satisfactory. The subject now being fixed, as well as the decoration of the roof, will be completed and visible to the public by the opening of Parliament. On removing the scaffolding, the advantages presented by the rich colours and light-reflecting surfaces of mosaic, especially in the panels of the curved groining (as in domes and apses) will be very apparent. We have little doubt that this roof, uniting as it does an elegant play of lines and forms to sumptuous chromatic embellishment, will prove the most splendid and beautiful portion of the whole interior. The decoration extends, however, no lower than the roof, the remainder of the hall presenting the bare stone, owing to the reduction of last year's vote by £2500. The general effect will consequently be miserably incongruous. It is greatly to be regretted that any real or apparent informality in Mr. Layard's management of the estimates and commissions for works so desirable in themselves should have led, as it was thought to have done, to a misplaced parsimony, absurd in its immediate results, and stultifying to Parliament itself. The architect has publicly stated that he had commenced the works, according to his instructions, before the reduction of the estimate; he is not, therefore, responsible for their present incompleteness.

The sumptuous ornamental decorations of the Queen's Robing-Room are at length completed, and in a few weeks (after the wearisome delay of so many years) the public are to be admitted to view the noble frescoes by Dyce. All traces of decay in these fine works have been removed, thanks, we believe, to Mr. Cope, the friend of the deceased artist; and now these *bona* or true frescoes appear fresher, yet richer in colour, than any wall-paintings in the building. Several of Mr. Armistead's reliefs carved in oak, illustrative of the Morte d'Arthur, remain, however, to be inserted. In the Royal Gallery the statues of monarchs have been placed in their niches, and gilt; their effect would, however, have been greatly improved, we think, if they had been parcel-gilt, as we suggested, with gold of different hues, or even had divers metals been used in details; but some allowance may be made for the hot and ugly coloured wall papering which surrounds them. The subway, which will ultimately connect the palace with the underground railway station and the Thames Embankment, is very successfully completed from New Palace-yard Cloister underneath Bridge-street. It is a low-arched, slightly-sunk tunnel, with brick walls glazed white, which reflect light from an ingeniously contrived aperture in the centre of the road, serving above as a refuge for persons crossing Bridge-street.

The next exhibition of the Burlington Fine-Arts Club will consist of a collection of drawings by Michael Angelo and Raphael, together with engravings from the works of those masters.

It is the unanimous advice of the International Commission on consular jurisdiction in Egypt that the new local courts in that country should be accepted, under certain guarantees for their impartial behaviour.

LITERATURE.

Francis I. and Other Historic Studies. By A. Baillie Cochrane. (Hurst and Blackett.) The pleasures of memory are, to some extent, experienced at the sight of two new volumes bearing the name of the author who, two or three years ago, afforded good literary entertainment by the publication of "Historic Pictures." And the expectations with which, under the influence of agreeable reminiscences, the fresh supply of intellectual provender is attacked are by no means destined to disappointment, unless the title should cause expectancy to rise too high. For between historic pictures and historic studies a precisian might hold that there should be a difference, so far that the former should have for their main object an impressive representation of personages and events, and the latter a philosophical analysis of characters and an instructive investigation of final causes. This difference, even if it were to be looked for or desired, is not plainly perceptible. The author, in his previous work, declared that his aim was "to depict events generally known in a light, and, if possible, a picturesque manner;" and in the present case he appears to have had a similar purpose in view; and he may fairly claim to have achieved, both then and now, a more than moderate amount of success. His studies are but three in number, and are entitled, respectively, "Francis the First," "The Council of Blood," and "The Flight of Varennes." To the last, if one were hypercritically disposed, some small exception might be taken, on the ground that the wording of the title is as if one were to describe a certain momentous occurrence as "The Flight of Egypt," and that, if there be a subject which may be considered not only hackneyed but completely exhausted, it is that abortive attempt at escape when everything in heaven and earth seemed hostile to Louis XVI., just as the stars fought against Sisera. It must be admitted, however, that even so stale a matter acquires a kind of freshness in the hands of the author, who brings to bear upon his description delicacy, elegance, sympathy, and a happy propriety of illustration. The note in which he quotes statistics to show that, as the people "suffered as much or even more than the wealthy from the odious excesses," therefore "the French Revolution, which certain writers have set themselves the task of justifying, was not, as they say, the work of the people," cannot be regarded as containing a remarkably sound argument. It would be as reasonable to maintain that Frankenstein did not create the monster because he could not control his creation, or that a foolish man did not let out water because his family were drowned in the flood he caused. "The Council of Blood" is the title of an essay devoted to the study of a historical episode full of romantic incidents and of tragic and melancholy interest. The title will at once recall to mind scenes dim, perhaps, but never to be quite forgotten; a vision of the awful Inquisition will appear, and amongst the images of men the most conspicuous figures will be those of the haughty, cruel, unscrupulous Duke of Alva, and the noble descendant of the Frisian Kings, the gallant, chivalrous, martyred Egmont. The sketch is rendered with great spirit; and, if the style seem light in comparison with the gravity of the subject, it is due rather to over-polished neatness of execution than to levity of design or want of appreciation. "Francis the First" is the longest and, in many respects, the most interesting study. No complete portraiture and no comprehensive picture of a notable reign are attempted, but the more sketch is distinguished for good drawing and for vivid colouring. You are fain to acknowledge that you have before you a fair likeness of the gallant, chivalrous, poetical monarch, who was before all things the first gentleman in France. He may be a little flattered in some particulars, but, on the whole, the portrait does him no more than justice. Several of his most famous and courtly sayings are given, and amongst them there is none more gracious and graceful than that whereby he named his mother, his sister Marguerite de Valois, and himself, the trinity, or perfect triangle of love, with reference to which Marguerite herself said, with pretty self-deprecation, "je suis le petit point de ce parfait triangle d'amour." The most famous of all his sayings shares the fate of so many others which the ruthless accuracy of modern research has relegated to the realms of the fictitious. The battle of Pavia is, of course, fought over again, but the vanquished monarch is said never to have written or uttered the memorable words, "Tout est perdu fors l'honneur." The author does not fail to present his hero as the leader of a great social movement, as the protector of the arts, as the arbiter of taste, as the introducer of a new civilisation, as the Royal prophet of the Renaissance. Why the author sometimes does and sometimes does not translate his quotations from foreign languages it is not easy to declare; but the reason why he translates poetry more frequently than prose, is, no doubt, because he wished to show his skill in giving English verse for French or other; and his skill is certainly considerable.

Wonders of the Deep. By M. Schele de Vere. (Sampson Low, Son, and Marston.) The wonders of the deep are anything but a recent discovery. So long ago as when the minstrel-monarch who reigned at Jerusalem wrote psalms and songs it was proclaimed that "they that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters, these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep." But now, in our days of universal print, it is not necessary to go down to the sea in ships; the landsman may stay at home, and yet be made conversant with the wonders of the deep. Others see for us, and expound in plain English the sights they have seen. About the volume of exposition to be considered in this place there is little information to be gained as to its authorship, origin, and aim. It is clearly an importation from the other side of the Atlantic, and it is called "a companion to 'Stray Leaves from the Book from Nature.'" To those who are acquainted with the latter work the announcement may be either a recommendation or the contrary; but it must suffice here to say that the volume, taken without any regard to its companionship or any knowledge of its predecessor, is so full of fables and facts relating to the marvels of the sea as to be uncommonly good reading. It contains, as might be expected from its Transatlantic character (for it is not stated to be, and does not read like, a translation from the French), a great deal of information about the sea-serpent, which some incredulous persons persist in considering "very like a whale." It is distinctly asserted that "in 1808 the body of a gigantic serpent was washed on shore at Stroms, one of the Orkneys. A Dr. Barclay was summoned at once, and, in the presence of several justices of the peace and some men of learning, an affidavit was drawn up which stated that the monster measured over 50 ft. in length and 9 ft. in circumference; that it had a kind of mane running from behind the head nearly to the tail, which was brilliantly phosphorescent at night; and that its gills, nearly 5 ft. long, were not unlike the plucked wings of a goose." Whether serpents be entitled to gills, and whether justices of the peace be, according to ordinary experience, the wisest and least credulous of mankind, it were idle to inquire; especially when it is naively remarked that "Sir Everard Home, it is true, believed it to be a basking shark of uncommon size." Far be it from a poor "land-lubber" to deny that there are such things as sea-serpents, as well as sea-lawyers; but the scientific men of the day, who are by no means unenterprising, do not appear to be able to catch one. However, the book abounds with wonderful, and entertaining, and instructive stories, amongst which tales of lighthouses are not forgotten. Nervous people may be made a little uncomfortable by the last chapter, in which it is more than once declared that "the earth is in trouble;" but it is admitted that there are safety-valves whereby "we are enabled, by God's mercy, to enjoy our life on earth, although we dwell on a thin, frail crust, over an ocean of molten fire!" Perchance we should be worse off if we did not.

Historical Sketches of the Reign of George II. By Mrs. Oliphant. Two volumes. (W. Blackwood and Sons.) The powerful handling of subjects of moral interest in Mrs. Oliphant's popular works of fiction warrants our expectation of a readable book when she takes pen in hand. She has made good use of the memoirs and correspondence of those celebrated personages, in the second quarter of the eighteenth century, whom we know as they appear in the literature of their own time. Queen Caroline (of Anspach), who ruled and reigned in England, in the name of her Hanoverian husband, is the first of these historical figures; the others are, in the first volume, Sir Robert Walpole, "the Minister;" Lord Chesterfield, "the Man of the World;" Lady Mary Wortley Montague, "the Woman of

Fashion;" Alexander Pope, "the Poet;" and Charles James Stuart, "the Young Chevalier." The biographical essays contained in the second volume are those upon John Wesley, "the Reformer;" Lord Anson, "the Sailor;" Bishop Berkeley, "the Philosopher;" Richardson, "the Novelist;" David Hume, "the Sceptic;" and Hogarth, "the Painter." We may not in all cases agree with Mrs. Oliphant in her estimate of these persons; but the trenchant keenness of her style gives some zest to her performance in dissecting their characters; and we seldom find her treating any of them worse than they deserve, while she never fails to praise the good which is to be found in all—even in Chesterfield and Pope, the cleverest and the most insouciant of Englishmen in that stylish age of hollow politeness. These essays were published in *Blackwood's Magazine* during the last twelvemonth. They well deserved reprinting, and may be read a second time with pleasure and profit.

Journal of a Landscape-Painter in Corsica. By Edward Lear. With Eighty Illustrations. (R. J. Bush.) The romantic natural scenery and native society of that singular island, half Italian, half French, which is so easily reached, but hitherto so rarely visited, by the English tourists in the south of Europe, are very pleasantly described in this beautiful volume. Its publication at this moment should be an antidote to the feeling of displeasure with Corsica and the Corsicans which may in some minds have been excited by the ferocious behaviour of some of the Ancient Pistols of that nation, the inveterate brawlers, libellers, and duellists, in the capital of the French Empire. In spite of all we have heard of the savage old custom of the Corsican *vendetta*, which was, after all, but the continuance, amongst a secluded insular folk, of the ideas and practices of revenge that once prevailed, with no less deadly virulence, in the luxurious Tuscan cities of the Middle Ages, the present generation of these islanders seem to be a civil and friendly race of people. But Mr. Lear, as is known to those who have followed him through Albania and Calabria, is the cheerfulest traveller in the world, and carries his own welcome about with him to all varieties of humanity, in the most out-of-the-way places upon earth. He was accompanied, oddly but serviceably enough, by his manservant, Giorgio, a Suliot, whom he had brought from Albania fifteen years before, and with whom he conversed in modern Greek, when his talk in the Italian and French languages might have been overheard by listeners to no good end. They found, however, at the village of Carghese an interesting colony of Greeks, established there ever since 1676, and retaining their national speech. The Corsicans were hospitable, sociable, and obliging; and their houses, in the rural villages and small towns, were tolerably comfortable, though Mr. Lear found a dirty hotel in the city of Corte. The island, which is rather more than one hundred miles long and fifty miles broad, is almost entirely mountainous, with a range of granite along the west coast, rising to a height of 9000 ft., and with a secondary calcareous range on the east side, where some of the rivers descend into salt lagoons and fever-haunted plains. The climate is warm and moist, producing a luxuriant vegetation; and the scenery, here depicted by Mr. Lear's skilful pencil, presents an endless diversity of forms of rock, and peak, and cliff, with forests of the ilex, chestnut, and pine clothing the mountain sides. These views are engraved by Mr. J. D. Cooper and several French artists. The time of Mr. Lear's visit to Corsica was during the months of April and May, 1868. Its result in this agreeable book is worthy of public acceptance.

Wendholme. A Story of Lancashire and Yorkshire. By Philip Gilbert Hamerton. Author of "A Painter's Camp in the Highlands." (W. Blackwood and Sons.) The pleasing talents of Mr. Hamerton for literary description and narrative, as well as for landscape art and art-criticism, have been exercised on more than one occasion to the gratification of sensible readers. This regular three-volume novel, his first work of its kind, is a tolerably successful attempt to represent some of the varieties and contrasts of English life in the Blackstone Edge border-country of East Lancashire and the West Riding. Here the rapid growth of new manufacturing towns and populous villages, thriving till lately by their cotton or woollen fabrics, has within the last thirty or forty years effected some remarkable social changes. The old-fashioned rural aristocracy and gentry, nowhere of a more sterling English character than in these back-bone parts of the kingdom, have found their dignified position rivalled, and sometimes impaired, by the neighbourhood of rich millowners, often persons of no refinement or education, yet possessing the qualities of energy, shrewdness, and resolute diligence in a superior degree. Mr. Hamerton, who is well acquainted with the district, and has a candid appreciation both of the virtues and the besetting sins of its native inhabitants, presents to us several characteristic types of the different classes in the two brothers of Shayton—Isaac and Jacob Ogden—the one a sullen, self-reforming drunkard, the other a victim of drudging avarice and the sordid pride of money-getting skill; in Mr. Anison, the good-natured, bustling manufacturer of Whitcup; in John Stedman, an admirable specimen of the best qualities of his class, manly, serious, and self-respecting; and in the wives and daughters of the Sooty-thorne business men. These are contrasted with the Stanburne family, of Stanithburn Tower and Wendholme, gentry of ancient lineage, attached to the Roman Catholic faith, like many of their rank in the northern shires, and too much addicted to costly household magnificence, since Colonel Stanburne has married the daughter of an Earl. The love-story of Philip and Alice is a sad one, and will grieve the compassionate reader. But the vigorous and truthful sketches of character in this novel cannot fail to secure it a due share of attention. The description of Isaac Ogden's relapse into drunkenness, and its effects upon him, is terribly real.

Walpole; or, Every Man Has His Price. A Comedy in Rhyme, in Three Acts. By Lord Lytton. (W. Blackwood and Sons.) French critics have a peculiar term to indicate that sort of unquestioning approval, the *succès d'estime*, which is allowed even to the inferior works of a genius who is already in possession of a well-established reputation. Lord Lytton is the author of so many popular novels, so many skilful plays, and so many scholarly poems, which have obtained their full share of esteem, that his new historical comedy is sure to be praised, yet more than it deserves, by a host of indiscriminating readers. They have so much enjoyed his previous compositions as to feel themselves pledged to admire whatever may come from his pen. Others will certainly be conscious of a disappointment, which they may not care to express. "Walpole; or, Every Man Has His Price," is a production of which no favourable notice could be expected if it were put forth by a less famous author. We do not find in it either a valuable study of English history at the period of the supposed action or a good study of human character. The most superficial qualities only of Sir Robert Walpole are here presented to our observation, as a burly, good-natured, energetic man, reckless of the means he employed for great ends of public good, and covering his genuine tenderness with an outside show of cynical coarseness, mixed with the bluff jollity of a boon companion. There is no great room for the exhibition of these qualities in a dramatic plot so contrived as to make Sir Robert Walpole the director and manager of the whole affair. Lord Lytton has therefore sought, in the refusal of Selden Blount and Sir Sydney Bellair to accept the bribes offered them by the Minister—that of a lucrative office for the needy patriot, and a Duke's daughter, with her father's title, for the gay young man of fashion—to supply the *point d'appui* for the development of Walpole's strength of will and fertility of invention. But this point fails to sustain the purpose of its introduction, since Walpole takes their refusal very coolly; and the subsequent events, which place them quite in his power—the rivalry of Blount and Bellair in the love of Lucy Wilmot, the escape of Lord Nithsdale, and the discovery of Blount's treachery to his friend—are matters with which the Minister has nothing to do. The after-thought of making Lucy Wilmot an unknown, long-lost niece of Sir Robert, is a commonplace and clumsy device to repair this fatal break in the chain of circumstantial positions. Walpole, in fact, does very little more than to enunciate, with a feeble practical commentary, the celebrated axiom, "Every man has his price." The proverb is neither justified nor contradicted by the result, which proves no more than that Selden Blount is a humbug, and that Sydney

Bellair is a devoted lover. These characters are very unsubstantial, and the confidant Vensey, the fugitive Nithsdale, and the two women, have still less reality and power to interest us in their doings. The dialogue, though free and colloquial in spirit, is much hampered by the trammels of the unwieldy twelve-syllabled verse.

Vikram and the Vampire; or, Tales of Hindu Devilry. Adapted by Richard F. Burton, F.R.G.S. With thirty-three illustrations by Ernest Griset. (Longmans.) The origin of storytelling is traced by scholars much farther back than the Ionian Greeks of the West Asiatic peninsula; and the identical plots of many of the most popular fictions of mediæval literature are found in the ancient Sanscrit. Captain Burton here introduces us to the entertaining collection named the "Baital Pachisi," or "Twenty-five Tales by a Vampire," which makes one of the strangest and merriest books we have lately met. The Vampire is a demon, the soul of a deceased "oilman's son," inhabiting the body of a monstrous animal, somewhat like the vampire bat, which hangs by its hind feet to the bough of a mimosa tree. King Vikramaditya, the brave and powerful monarch of Ujjayani, in the Malwa country, having gone out at night, with his son, Dharma Dhvaj, to keep an appointment in the cemetery with the malignant necromancer Shanta-Shil, is desired to fetch the Vampire from the tree. But the Vampire, which Vikram and Dharma Dhvaj have caught with extreme difficulty, persuades them to listen to its clever stories, and to answer its shrewd questions as to their opinion of the behaviour of the persons in each story; with the understanding that, so often as Vikram pronounces a wrong opinion, the Vampire shall escape from its captivity and return to the tree. Eleven only of the twenty-five stories are given by Captain Burton; but these are quite sufficient to show the luxuriance of fancy and humour, the gaiety of spirit, the varied observation of mankind, and the keenness of satirical wit that characterise the works of Hindoo novelists and fabulists in the classic age of their country. They have a strength of flavour and a freedom of style equal to the early French and Italian romances, with a copious infusion of the supernatural element. But we suspect that, in one case, at least, the story of the Bengalee philosopher, Vishnu Swami, and the fatal conceits of his four sons, Captain Burton has done more than "adapt" the Hindoo original to the taste of modern readers. He seems to be aiming a sly sarcasm at some favourite theories in our own day, propounded by certain "Gems of Science." The allegory is managed with skill and smart effect. King Vikram, however, finds himself quite astray in his replies to the puzzling questions proposed by the Vampire, at the end of each narrative. He takes refuge, at last, in silence, whereupon the Vampire not only consents to go with him to Shanta-Shil but gives him a friendly warning of the murderous designs of that fanatic, who is a Thug, or worshipper of the Goddess of Destruction, and has sworn to take Vikram's life. The work is a remarkable exhibition of Hindoo sentiments and habits of thought.

The Blockade (Le Blocus). Translated from the French of MM. Erekman-Chatrain. With Illustrations. (Smith, Elder, and Co.) Perhaps it would not be quite fair, though the addition of the French words is a sure guide, to say that the title of this charming story is incorrectly rendered; for "investment" would be particularly liable to misapprehension amongst "a nation of shopkeepers." Let lovers of a good story, then, be recommended, without more ado, to take the pleasure of reading "The Blockade." It is "an episode of the fall of the first French empire," and its authors are masters of the art of turning such episodes to excellent literary account. They present the dark more impressively than the bright side of war; for, though there is no lack of spirit-stirring scenes with the roll of drums, and the clash of steel, and the rattle of musketry, and the stern charge of bayonets, attention is more forcibly drawn to sorrow and suffering, to fever bred of corpse-covered battle-fields, to the losses and starvation of peaceful citizens and peasants. The character of the Jew Moses, with his mingled kindheartedness and selfishness, his mixture of piety and love of pelf, his frank confessions of rank cowardice, and his profane thanksgivings for the precocious Mammonism displayed by his youngest son, is a rare piece of drawing, and discloses a humour which Frenchmen are not usually supposed to possess. Nor must the old veteran of the guard, in whom a certain ferocity coexists with gentle simplicity, who is hard as iron to those who treat him ill, and soft as down to those who treat him well, and who believes in his Emperor as in a god, be passed over without due meed of admiration, although he is less striking in point of originality. The single volume, in fact, is worth a cart-load of the ordinary novels.

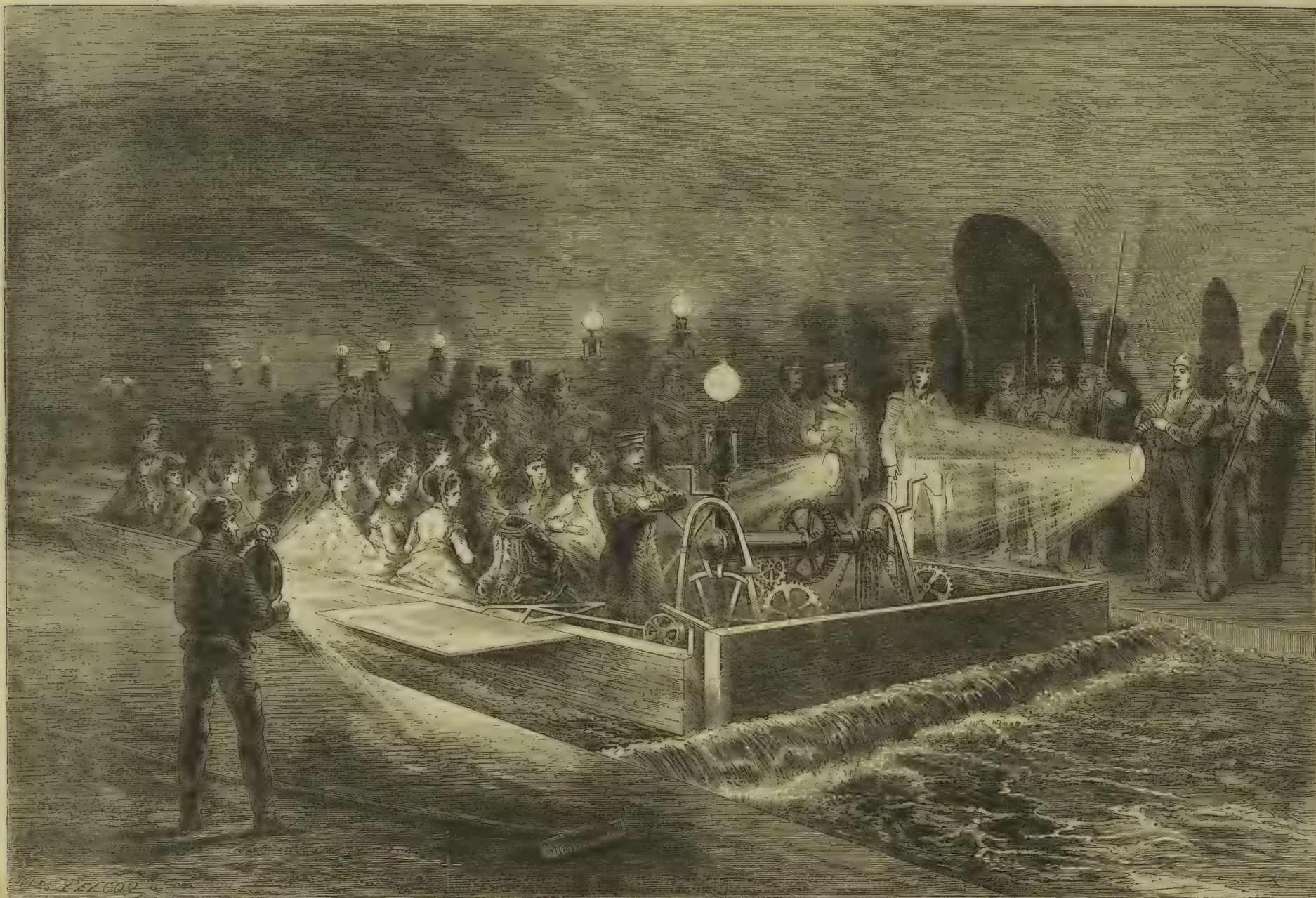
The Knight's Ransom. By L. Valentine. (Frederick Warne and Co.) The tale contained in this volume was originally published, as we are candidly informed in a preface, some years ago. It was then called "The Ransom." As it has since been often asked for it has been republished, after revision and some re-writing, "with original illustrations." Inquirers will therefore no longer ask for it in vain.

Burke's Peerage and Baronetage. (Harrison and Sons.) No other country in Europe has an order of nobility, in point of descent, influence, or distinction, equal to our own, and no other country has such a record of its titled classes as "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage." The thirty-second edition, now before us, is, perhaps, the most interesting yet published. It comprises, within its 1316 closely-printed pages, full historical memoirs of the 1500 or 1600 families of which the Peerage and the Baronetage consist; and is thus acceptable, not only as a memorial of the existing members of each house, but also as a necessary companion to the student of history. Rousseau designates the English nobility as "the most enlightened, the best taught, the wisest, and the bravest in Europe." In truth, no one can peruse "Garter's Roll of the Lords," placed each Session on the table of the House of Peers, without feeling the correctness of this description. Name after name, from Norfolk to Greville (the oldest and youngest creations), recalls some episode, exploit, or passage in our annals. The year just over has caused more changes among the peers and baronets than any for a long time past. Among the peers thirty-two have died, including two Marquises—Anglesey and Westminster; nine Earls—Antrim, Crawford, Derby, Fingall, Glasgow, Kingstown (two), Radnor, and Wicklow; three Viscounts—Canterbury, Gough, and Strangford; and eighteen Barons—Boston, Broughton, Castlemaine, Cloncurry, Cranston (two), Crofton, Dynevor, Fairfax, Gray (Baroness), Ilawke, Kenyon, Leconfield, Seymour, Stanley, Taunton, Torphichen, Windsor (Baroness), and Wynford. Thirty-four Baronets have also died during the year 1869—viz., Adair, Anstruther, Blanc, Boileau, Boynton, Chetwynd, Clay, Clifton, Conroy, Cunard, Cumynghame, Curtis, De Beauvoir, Dilke, D'Oyley, Fetherston, James, Jervis, Johnstone, Palmer, Parker, Pringle, Rich, Rivers, Rumbold, Rushout, Selwyn, Seton, Shaw, Shelley, Slingsby, Tennent, Wheler, and Wilson. During the same period (1869) eight new peers have been created—Barons Lawrence, Penzance, Howard of Glossop, Castletown, Acton, Robertes, Wolverton, and Greville of Clonyn; and two Scotch peers and one Irish have been given seats in the House. Ten Baronets have been made—Brady, Bazley, Seymour, O'Connell, Salt, Whitworth, Fairbairn, Earle, Jackson, and Lawrence. These new creations, together with numerous other alterations and improvements, give to this new edition of Sir Bernard Burke's work a peculiar character of novelty and interest.

The widow of Belzoni, the Egyptologist, has died, at the age of eighty-eight. She had a pension of £200 a year from Government.

The Pamir Steppe is to be explored by Mr. Heyward, envoy of the Royal Geographical Society to Turkistan, who left Srinagar, in Kashmir, last November, for that purpose. He states in a letter to the society that the Maharajah had promised to protect the expedition as far as his territory extends into Gilgit. Arrived at the Karakul, he will have to decide between a return to India, or a forward attempt to progress through the frontier tribes into Russian Turkistan. The Russian Government will afford Mr. Heyward every facility if he should come out upon their territory.

THE SEWERS OF PARIS.



THE BOAT.

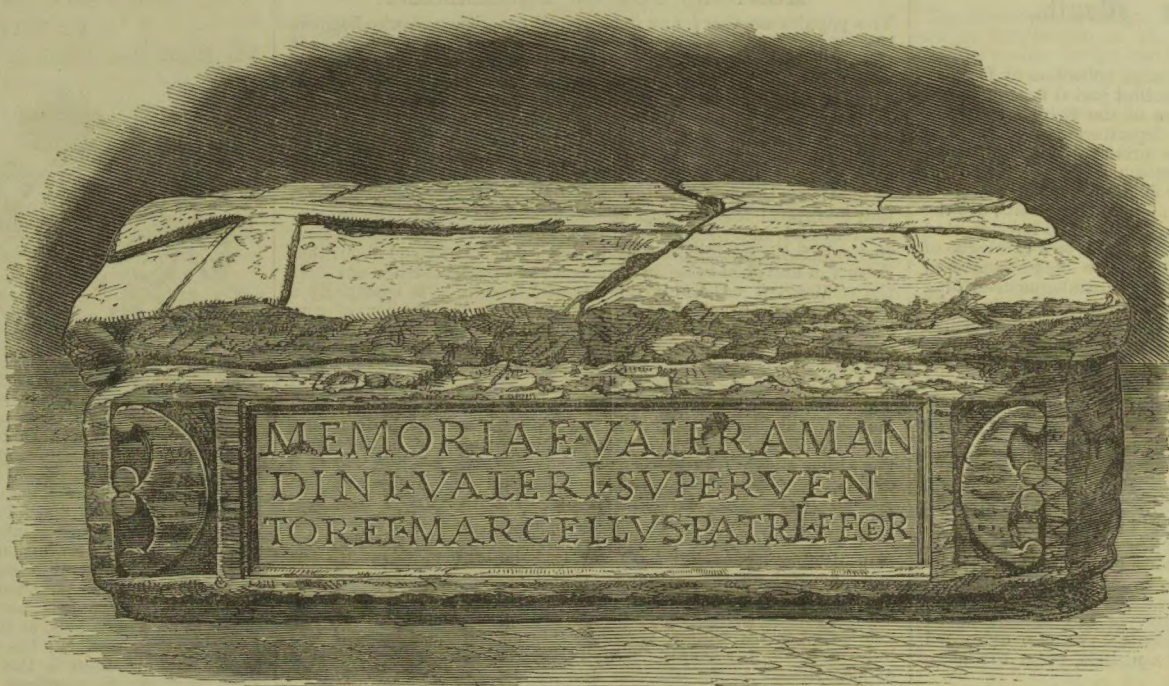


THE WAGGON.

THE PARIS SEWERS.

Among the sights of Paris, which provincials and foreigners, who know how to find such odd show-places, are most anxious to see, are the gigantic collecting-sewers beneath the city, constructed at the recommendation and under the auspices of the late Prefect of the Seine. The main artery of these extensive subways on the northern bank of the river is between three and four miles in length, and extends from the Place de la Concorde to Asnières, near to which well-known suburb the principal southern artery, after crossing the Seine in a monster tube close to the Pont d'Alma, will eventually form a junction with it. Besides these principal arteries, which have a height of close upon 15 ft. and a width of about 18 ft., including a pathway on each side nearly 3 ft. wide, there are thirty miles of secondary galleries of somewhat smaller dimensions, in addition to an intricate network comprising nearly six hundred miles of sewers proper. The principal purpose served by these extensive subways is the drainage of the streets and the carrying off the refuse water and the rainfall from the houses; cesspools which require to be periodically emptied being still the rule in the French capital.

It is only on certain days in the year that the Paris sewers are made show-places of. On these occasions they are magnificently lighted up with some thousands of moderator lamps, each provided with its silvered reflector. The tickets issued by the municipal authorities indicate the time and place of rendezvous, and precisely at the hour specified the large iron trap-door in the centre of the pavement is raised, and the assembled party proceed to descend some dozen steep steps conducting to the sewers. Overhead is a vaulted roof, intersected in all directions with countless telegraph wires inclosed in gutta-percha tubes, and running along the sides is a large black pipe about a foot and a half in diameter, which supplies the city of Paris with water. Rows of lamps that grow fainter and fainter in the distance, light up the vaulted gallery and cast their reflections in the black, turbid waters at our feet, whereon a large boat, capable of holding some fourteen or sixteen people, is floating. The ladies of the party are handed in, and the boat, which is provided with a movable crescent-shaped fan, pierced with holes to admit of the water flowing through, and which, on being let down, fits exactly to the rounded bottom of the sewer and pushes before it all the solid refuse matter that may chance to have accumulated, moves along on its course until a particular point is reached. Here the voyagers disembark and, with their male companions, who have followed them on foot, take their seats in a number of small carriages, likewise provided with fans, and the wheels of which run along rails placed at the edges of the pathways which bound the sewers on each side. Each of these vehicles carries a lighted lamp in front of it, and is provided with a conductor. Signal is given by sound of trumpet of the rails being clear, and off the carriages start, propelled forward by four men running at the sides of them, at the rate of something like six miles an hour. Blue tablets, with white letters, indicate from time to time the particular points of the city the party are traversing, and every now and then the cars shoot past some rushing cascade of dirty water tumbling into the sewer with a roaring sound. Occasionally, at a signal from their conductor, passengers must duck their heads as they pass beneath the great transverse iron stanchions which cross and recross



ROMAN SARCOPHAGUS FOUND IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

the roofs of the galleries. Suddenly a sharp turn is made, and a silver-grey flood of light in front of them is discerned. The cars soon come to a halt and the passengers alight, and in a few minutes find themselves on the quay facing the towers of the Conciergerie.

prising Greek community of that town, who have worshipped hitherto, under their pastor, the Archimandrite Stratuli, in a house in Sandon-terrace. The name of the architect, Mr. H. Sumners, was mentioned; but Messrs. W. and J. Hay, without

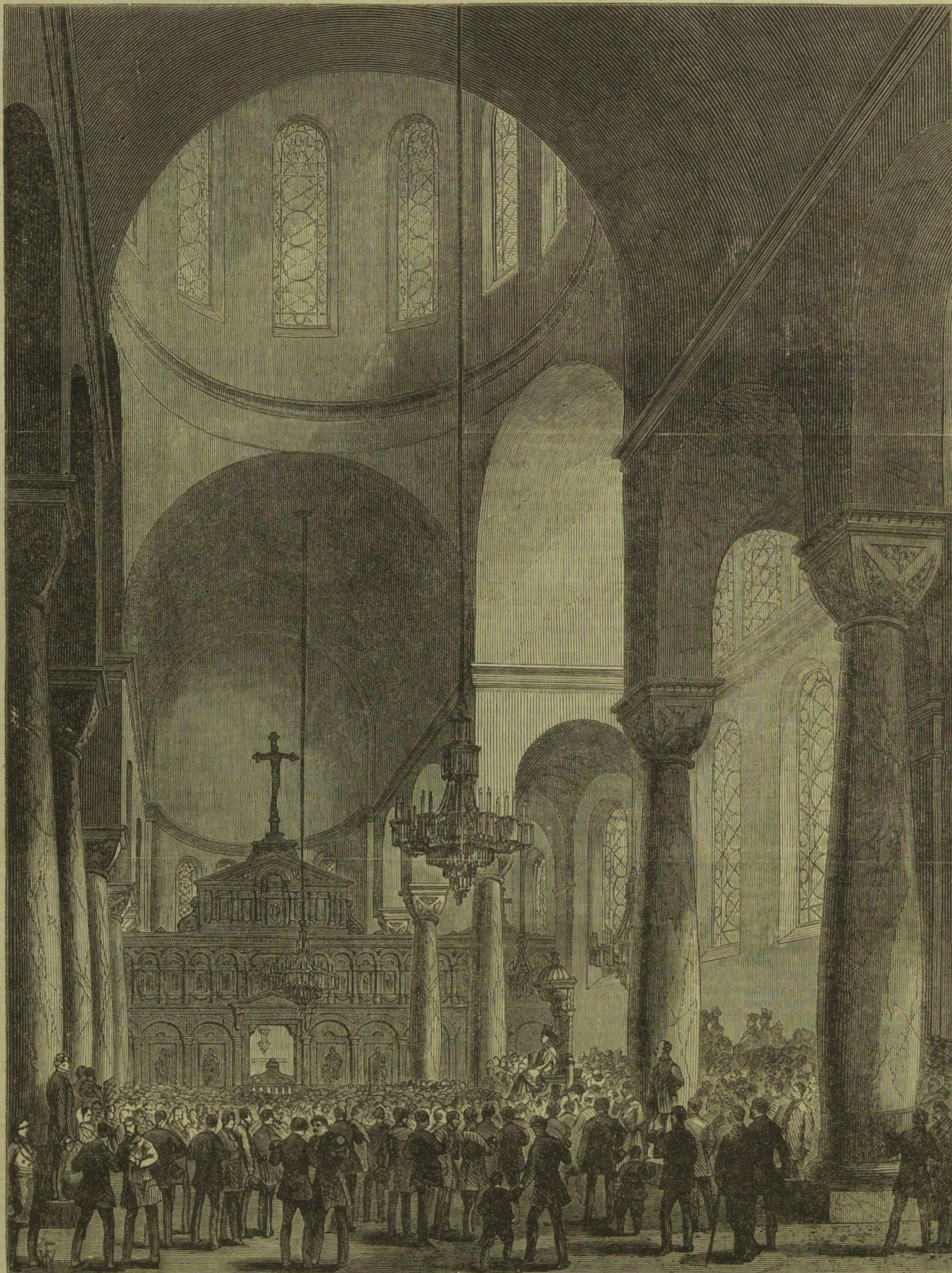
ROMAN SARCOPHAGUS
AT WESTMINSTER.

The Roman sarcophagus, of which we give an illustration, was lately found on the north side of Westminster Abbey, in digging out the earth for the purpose of building a store-room. The workmen digging first came to some walls, of the same date with the earlier parts of the abbey, probably the remains of the old chapel of St. Edmund. They found, soon afterwards, this Roman sarcophagus, which is of the third century of the Christian era. It bears an inscription on the lid, where also has been sculptured, in the twelfth-century style of art, a cross. The coffin contained the skeleton of a young man. Dean Stanley has exhibited a photograph of this subject to the Society of Antiquaries, and Dr. Black has read a paper upon it before the Middlesex Archaeological Society. The coffin is now in the cloisters, where it can be seen.

THE
NEW GREEK CHURCH,
LIVERPOOL.

An exterior view was given last week of the new church built in Prince's Park-road, Liverpool, for the wealthy and enterprising Greek community of that town, who have worshipped hitherto, under their pastor, the Archimandrite Stratuli, in a house in Sandon-terrace. The name of the architect, Mr. H. Sumners, was mentioned; but Messrs. W. and J. Hay, without disparaging his skill and ability, claim to have prepared the original design for this building in March, 1864. We now present a view of the interior, which has been described, with the congregation assembled during the religious ceremonies and services of the opening day. The Archbishop of Syra and Tenos, assisted by the Archimandrites of Liverpool, Manchester, and London, and by other clergy, performed the act of consecration, followed by the ordination of a priest and the sacrifice of the mass. Several clergymen of the English Church, including two representing the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, were present in the congregation, with many English laymen. The Archbishop was magnificently attired in robes, first of purple satin, afterwards of white satin, embroidered with gold; and with a splendid mitre and cross of diamonds. He wore, at first, a high black head-dress, instead of the mitre. The robes of the Archimandrites were embroidered with bright flowers. Our illustration shows the Archbishop sitting on his lofty throne, which is a beautiful fabric of carved oak. It also shows the noble screen, which is adorned with carvings and paintings. The Archbishop, priests, and deacons, followed by a number of gentlemen bearing lighted candles, walked through the church, and some interesting symbolical acts were performed with due solemnity and precision. The relics of the saints, presented by the Archbishop, in a silver case, were deposited in a hole cut in the column that sustains the holy table, or altar, and were sealed up; the table was then washed and blessed, and a lamp over it was lighted. The ceremonies, with the liturgy and communion service, occupied nearly four hours.

In reference to the notification of the Indian Government on the subject of engineers' commissions, which excited so much indignation among the profession in this country, the Governor-General in Council has drawn up a minute expressing the utmost confidence in the engineers, and explaining that the notification referred only to recognised legitimate commissions, which it was not thought desirable to permit in the public service.



OPENING OF THE NEW GREEK CHURCH AT LIVERPOOL.

Archæology of the Month.

The late Mr. E. Hawkins's well-known large collection of English satirical prints and drawings, from the earliest period to the present time, has been purchased by the trustees of the British Museum, and added to their collection in the department of prints and drawings. Upon the suggestion of the principal librarian, illustrations in the library of the British Museum are to be added; and "The King's Tracts," nearly 1700 volumes, or 25,000 works; 400 satirical prints and woodcuts, and numerous portraits, are the result of the great search. How William Hone would have gloated over this grand review! Of course, there must be a catalogue of these valuables. Of Mr. Hawkins's collection there numbered some 8000 items, of which he left an elaborate catalogue describing the works. The first volume of the aggregate catalogue is nearly ready: according to semi-official information in the *Athenæum*, it will include the martyrdom of the Reformers of Queen Mary's reign, the plots against Queen Elizabeth, the history of the Spanish Armada, the Gunpowder Plot, the treatment of the Puritans and others by Laud and his party.

Holborn has been hitherto traced to a corruption of *Oldbourne*—i.e., the old bourne, or burn, which once ran down the whole street—"till Oldbourne Bridge, and into the river of the Wells and Turnmill Brook," says old John Stow. A correspondent of the *Builder* disputes this origin, and maintains that the prefix Holborn really means a hole or hollow, as in the analogous cases of Holbeck and Holbrook, places in England named in a similar way. In "Domesday Book" it is recorded that the King has two cottiers at *Holeburne*, who pay twenty pence a year to the King's viccomes (sheriff). "There can be no doubt that Holeburne, in Ossulstone hundred, is meant for the Holborn of the present day." "Ald," the Saxon form of "Old," could not have been corrupted into "Hole" so near to Saxon times as A.D. 1086, when the great Survey was completed.

An interesting and important discovery has been made in Gythia, in Lacedæmonia, consisting of a cube-fashioned stone, with five conic apertures, corresponding to the five well-known Greek measures, of which hitherto all but the requisite volume was known. To remove every doubt, the margin of each is inscribed with the corresponding designation.

The crypt of the ancient Church of St. Michael, at the east end of Leadenhall-street, by Aldgate pump, beneath two houses about to be taken down, is in jeopardy. We hope the London and Middlesex Archæological Society will prevent the loss of this beautiful work of 1108: it is engraved in Wilkinson's "Londina Illustrata." We trust the crypt or chapel will not be taken down upon the promise of being rebuilt elsewhere.

An archæological search has been made in a deep grotto near Durtort, a small village in the Gard. This cave was believed to contain the bones of a number of Camisards (persecuted Protestants), and human remains have been found there. The grotto appears to belong to a much earlier period; it was found to contain bones for a depth of about 3 ft., and among them were seven pebble beads, thirty flint hatchets, a bone whistle, a bone, a human shoulder blade still perforated with a bronze dart, fragments of pottery, two perfect skulls with projecting jaws, and about sixty shaped flints intended for arms or tools. The cavern is conjectured to have been the sepulchre of some tribe which inhabited the banks of the Vassorgues or the woods of the Coste mountain, and was contemporary with the cave of St. Jean d'Alcas, belonging to the transition period between the ages of flint and bronze.

M. Castellani has found in one of the houses at Pompeii 700 medals, mostly silver, of the Consular and Imperial periods; and a large collection of gold jewellery, including a magnificent chain, nearly three yards in length, formed of golden tresses. There have also been found two splendid bracelets, called *ophis*, composed of great serpents, to be worn on the upper part of the arm; two gold ear-drops or pendants, set with pearls; two other bracelets formed of a double row of large globes cut in two and chained together; and six rings of various size and value. The chain is the third of the kind which M. Castellani has seen: the first was found at Cervetti, the ancient Agilla, in the celebrated tomb of Regulini-Gatassi; the other at Boulak, in an Egyptian tomb. The clasp of the chain just found at Pompeii is, however, of very peculiar design, but is not uncommon in jewellery of the Roman Empire. M. Castellani also speaks of an item discovered by him in the same excavation—namely, a well-defined impression of the body of a native of Pompeii in the act of flying from the doomed city. A plaster cast has been taken of it, and is now, with two other casts, in the Bourbon Museum at Naples.

Coachmakers' Hall, in Noble-street, is about to be converted into warehouses. This hall was originally built for the Scriveners' Company, and was sold to the Coachmakers' Company. It was noted in the last century for its Free Debating Society's meetings; and the great Protestant meeting which attended Lord George Gordon on the delivery of the Protestant petition to the House of Commons, in 1780. Alderman Waltham first figured here in political oratory; and he used to relate how he and his compatriots were dispersed by order of the Lord Mayor, Sir James Saunders. By the time Waltham himself reached the civic chair other politics were in the ascendant.

Sir David Baxter has presented to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland the drinking-cup which belonged to Alexander Selkirk, and was in his possession during his sojourn on the island of Juan Fernandez; also his sea-chest.

The Society of Arts are proceeding in their work of affixing commemorative tablets to the houses formerly inhabited by men of genius. Dryden's reputed house is among the projected number. It is scarcely necessary to remind the society that the old house in Fetter-lane, long inscribed with Dryden's name, was never tenanted by "Glorious John."

Very interesting discoveries at Rome and Florence are reported in the *Architect*. In preparing the space before the palace for the fêtes in honour of Princess Margherita, the workmen came upon the remains of Roman mosaic pavements; to the north was a portico, and at right angles were three halls, one of them with a mosaic 10 ft. 1 in. by 8 ft. 7 in. This last is a conventional representation of Orpheus charming the beasts. The portico is much dilapidated; a large group in the centre, where horses' hoofs and the tail of a monster are traceable, suggests the "Hippolytus." Fazzello mentions an ancient building on this site called the Sala Verde, a kind of amphitheatre, which was levelled in 1549. The frescoes had been covered with whitewash, and cut to pieces to make room for cumbrous monuments. Starnina's paintings form two series from the lives of St. Anthony and St. Nicholas respectively, and were executed before he was compelled to leave Florence in consequence of his share in the rising of Ciompi, in 1378.

The gold-headed cane of Lord Lovat, which was handed by him on the scaffold to his cousin, William Fraser, has been sold by auction for £24 10s.

A letter has been addressed by Messrs. Hamy and Lenormant to the French Academy of Sciences to prove that Egypt has had its age of stone as well as Europe. The letter is dated from Luxor, and relates that in a journey to Upper Egypt, on the elevated plateau which divides the celebrated valley of Biban-el-Molouk from the escarpments which look over the Pharaonic edifices of Deir-el-Bahari, the travellers ascertained the presence of an enormous quantity of wrought flints, lying on the surface of the ground, to the extent of upwards of a hundred square yards. These wrought flints, arrow-heads, lance-heads, lanceolated axes, knives, scrapers, &c., say Messrs. Hamy and Lenormant, evidently constitute the remains of an ancient manufactory, in all probability pre-historic, and exactly resembling those known in France under the denomination of "Factory of the Neolithic Period." Messrs. Ballard, Quatrefages, Wurtz, Jamin, Broon, and Berthelot, who were witnesses of the discovery, declare that it verifies the origin of the specimens collected by them, and their similitude to those found in Europe.

MEMBERS OUT OF PARLIAMENT.

To a popular member for an independent constituency, who happens to be a member of the Government, it is an advantage not to be in the Cabinet, however much he may be in the confidence of that body. No one more fully develops that condition than Mr. W. E. Forster, who, if not the rose, lives very near the rose indeed. Doubtless the Prime Minister would be not sorry to have this gentleman as one of the inmost council of the realm, in preference to the representative of a great Whig family, if there is such a person in the Cabinet. Any way, no one in the Ministry or in the House has such an assured position as Mr. Forster. If a certain Scriptural text were to be taken literally, he ought to consider himself in a perilous condition, for all men speak well of him. Not only is his mind eminently judicial, but it has come about that there is a universal belief in his special and particular honesty. In the trifling ruggedness of his manner, though it is essentially a genial ruggedness, there seems to beam out the quality of conscientiousness; and anyone who heard his speeches on great questions when in Opposition, and observing how equably he weighed every argument on both sides, might have supposed that he was so trimming that he would have nothing to unsay or undo when he came into office. In a Minister dealing officially with such a question as education all this is of import, and tends to render him careful and efficient in his work. Men on all sides of the House trust him, and are quite ready to say that in no better hands could the question of national education be. In the recent speech made by Mr. Forster at Bradford all his specialties were present; and knowing, as he must do, that when he comes to propound a measure to the House as Minister for Education everyone will be eager to help him, he naturally was more hopeful on that point than was Mr. Bright. According to him, not only would his particular omnibus be ready, but it could be pushed on through Temple Bar the very moment that huge vehicle on which will be inscribed "Land Tenure, Ireland," had lumbered its heavy weight through the portals of Parliament. Talk of Mr. Bright as an amiable and skilful conductor, why, Mr. Forster is the very impersonation of amiability; and, as he had some practice last Session in departmental coaching, it is easy to believe that he will now show adequate skill.

The speech made by Sir Stafford Northcote to a chamber of commerce in Devonshire the other day justifies, even to extreme Liberals, the loud and universal regret when it was reported that he had perished by a casualty at sea. Everyone who has watched his career was ready to exclaim that they had rather lost a better man. For though he is not what is called brilliant, he has never been placed in any capacity in which he has not shown himself *par negotiis*, and, indeed, somewhat more than that. He is essentially equable in temperament, and once only does one remember him to have been roused to a certain force and animation which in another man would have been anger. His declaration in favour of sticking to free trade may be a surprise to some people, who, thinking of him only as a member of the last two Conservative Governments, conceive that he must be in this regard, as in others, retrograde and obstructive. It is forgotten that he was not in Parliament during the time the Tories made their last protest against free trade, and that he was private secretary to Mr. Gladstone at a time, probably, when that gentleman was learning his free-trade catechism; and they do say that Sir Stafford was a convert to that principle before his then chief had come to the point when his convictions were reached. Then look at Sir Stafford Northcote as Secretary for India, in the discharge of which function he surprised everyone. He followed in the path of Liberal Indian policy which Lord Salisbury had opened, a policy which no doubt had the effect of rendering naught an Indian Reform Association, which used to exist somewhere about Pall-mall a few years ago. At any rate, that association disappeared about the time of the disappearance of one of its chief apostles and agents, Mr. Danby Seymour, and, together with him, has been heard of no more. There may not be many persons who remember that Mr. Danby Seymour went through the perils of a three-months' sojourn in India, during which he was supposed to have mastered all the economic and social wants of the country; and so far did his enthusiasm go, that it is said that he passed a day and a night in a notorious jungle studying the habits and manners of tigers, with a view to reporting on the best mode of taming and civilising those playful creatures. But to return to Sir Stafford Northcote, it is stated that he showed much faculty for the duties of Secretary for India, exhibiting a mingling of conciliation and firmness which stood him in good stead in the country. It has been said laughingly that, perhaps, the most difficult and most dreaded duty which he ever performed as Indian Minister was that of opening the ball given to the Sultan at the India Office. On the education question it is very likely that Mr. Forster will find Sir Stafford a willing and a well-informed coadjutor, for that is one of the subjects that he has particularly studied.

In various ways Mr. T. B. Potter has always seemed to wish to have it understood that he became the successor of Mr. Cobden in the representation of Rochdale, with a due sense of his inadequacy to fill that gentleman's place—at least, such is an impression that prevails. Nevertheless, Mr. Potter, notwithstanding the absence of all pretension and a modest abnegation of obtrusiveness, is a good working member, and is, it is believed, personally very popular in the House, and for a special as well as other reasons, is much regarded in his own district. At Rochdale he is firmly established, an attempt to contest the borough with him at the last election having entirely failed. He is always of such a pleasant countenance that he may be said to be an incarnation of smiles, and he sits in his prescribed seat below the gangway with an ease and a buoyancy which are quite delightful to behold. He it was, it is believed, who originated and got up the association known as the Cobden Club. Possibly once or twice in the London season a paragraph may be observed in the newspapers that "the Fox Club had dined together;" and then it may be remembered that the institution so called was founded to keep alive the memory of Charles James of that name, and that it consists of Whigs proper, and so is a rather fossilised association. The "Fox Club" does nothing that anyone ever heard of but dine; and so it was thought to be the rule and the sole end of the being of the "Cobden Club," but it seems that is not so, inasmuch as the society has of late bought up some valuable works on the subject of land tenure, which must be welcome just now.

Distinctions amongst men are manifold; and if it is a distinction to be the smallest man in the House of Commons, Lord Milton is unquestionably distinguished. But within his small frame is inclosed a large heart, and no little courage and enterprise, as witnessed in that strange and dangerous passage of the Rocky Mountains, of which he has given an account to the world. It is not every eldest son of an Earl who has faced, with success, a grisly bear, and tracked the North American continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. A result of this travel is that Lord Milton has established in his mind the idea of a policy which he has once or twice endeavoured to enunciate in the House, and which he has developed in a work which he has very lately published. He is especially anxious that England should be enabled to have free access to that sea passage between the two great oceans that lap the diverse shores of North America, which he affirms can only be done by this country having possession of that island of San Juan, about which there was such an international fuss some years ago, and which effectually commands the narrowest and most critical point of the passage in question. Though he labours under some defects of voice and manner, and is far from fluent, and has besides an odd way of emphasising his words at times, Lord Milton is palpably desirous of getting the ear of the House; and one evening late last Session, when there was a clear stage and good opportunity, he managed to get out much, if not all, he thinks on his pet question, and showed so much knowledge of what he was talking about, and so much earnestness of purpose, that a certain hesitation, which in him takes the form of grotesqueness, was forgotten; so he was well listened to and heartily applauded when he concluded. A movement said to be on foot by which England will lose—by cession, of course—all her colonies in the Pacific, will be a stimulus to Lord Milton to renew his efforts to bring his policy before Parliament and the country.

OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

COUNTESS DELAWARE.

The Right Hon. Elizabeth Sackville-West, Countess Delawarr, a peeress in her own right, as Baroness Buckhurst, of Buckhurst, in the county of Sussex, died, at her residence in Upper Grosvenor-street, on the 16th inst. Her Ladyship was born Aug. 9, 1795, the second daughter of John Frederick Sackville, third Duke of Dorset, by Arabella Diana, his wife, daughter and coheir of Sir Charles Cope, Bart., of Brewerne. She married, June 21, 1813, George John, fifth Earl Delawarr, and in two years after became coheir (with her sister, the Countess of Plymouth) of her brother, George John Frederick, fourth Duke of Dorset, who was killed by a fall from his horse while hunting near Dublin. In consequence of this heirship, and the descent of Buckhurst Park to Lady Delawarr, her husband, Earl Delawarr, assumed by sign manual, in 1843, the additional surname and arms of Sackville, and the Countess was created a peeress of the United Kingdom in 1864, as Baroness Buckhurst, of Buckhurst, with limitation to her second surviving son, the Hon. and Rev. Reginald Windsor Sackville-West. The old Barony of the same name, conferred by Queen Elizabeth on Sir Thomas Sackville, afterwards Earl of Dorset, the poet, had become extinct for want of a male heir, at the death, in 1843, of the fifth and last Duke of Dorset, K.G., the son of Lord George Sackville, so well known as a politician in the times of George II. and George III. The issue of the marriage of Earl and Countess Delawarr consisted of six sons and three daughters: of the former, the eldest, the late Viscount Cantilupe, died, deeply lamented, in 1850; the second is Charles Richard, present and sixth Earl Delawarr, C.B., a Major-General in the Army; and the third, the Hon. and Rev. Reginald Windsor Sackville-West, who succeeds as Baron Buckhurst. Of the daughters, the eldest, Elizabeth, is wife of Francis Charles Hastings Russell, Esq.; the second, Mary Catherine, is Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury; and the third, Arabella Diana, was married, in 1860, to Sir Alexander Bannerman, Bart., and died Feb. 16, 1869.

LADY CHARLOTTE WOLFE.

Lady Charlotte Sophia Wolfe, of Forenaghts, in the county of Kildare, died at Dover-street, Piccadilly, on the 19th inst., aged seventy. Her Ladyship was the third daughter of the Hon. Francis Hely-Hutchinson, M.P. for the University of Dublin, and was sister of John, third Earl of Donoughmore. She married, April 12, 1831, the Rev. Richard Wolfe, of Forenaghts, nephew to the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Kilwarden, who was murdered in the Emmet riot of 1803; and she became a widow July 9, 1841. The family of Wolfe, with which her Ladyship was thus connected, has had in modern times three very distinguished members—General Wolfe, the hero of Quebec; Arthur Wolfe, Lord Kilwarden; and the Rev. Charles Wolfe, author of "The Elegy on the Death of Sir John Moore."

SIR G. F. SEYMOUR.

Sir George Francis Seymour, G.C.B., G.C.H., Admiral of the Fleet, heir presumptive to the Marquisate of Hertford, died, at his residence in Eaton-square, on the 20th inst., in his eighty-third year. The gallant Admiral was a link connecting the present with the most glorious past of our naval history. Born when Rodney was still alive, and Howe, Duncan, and Nelson had not attained the zenith of their fame, he survived to witness a complete revolution in maritime warfare—the "wooden walls" superseded by those of iron. Sir George was eldest son of Admiral Lord Hugh Seymour (fifth son of Francis, first Marquis of Hertford, K.G.), by Anne Horatia, his wife, daughter of James, second Earl Waldegrave, and half-sister of H.R.H. the late Duke of Gloucester. He entered the Royal Navy Oct. 10, 1797; was at the surrender of Surinam, in 1799; and subsequently, after assisting, in the *Acasta*, in making a variety of prizes, he served in the *Victory*, under Nelson. In 1805 he accompanied the squadron with which Nelson pursued the combined fleets of France and Spain to the West Indies and back, and he participated in the capture of El Rayo, of one hundred guns, one of the ships that had escaped from Trafalgar. Next year, having been appointed to the *Northumberland*, Commander Seymour fought in the action off St. Domingo, and was severely wounded in the jaw. In July, 1806, he obtained post rank; and in 1808, being then in the *Pallas*, took part in Cochrane's attack on the French shipping in the Basque Roads; and in 1813, while in command of the *Leonidas*, captured, after an exciting chase, the American privateer *Paul Jones*. From 1844 to 1848 he was Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific, from 1851 to 1854 on the North American and West Indian station, and from 1856 to 1859 on the Portsmouth station. From 1841 to 1844 he held office as a Lord of the Admiralty; in 1865, was appointed Vice-Admiral of the United Kingdom; and, in 1866, became Admiral of the Fleet. In 1818 he was made Sergeant-at-Arms to the House of Lords, and was also, from 1830 to 1837, Master of the Robes to King William IV. He was nominated a Knight Commander of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order, and knighted in 1831; and was given the insignia of a Grand Cross of the Bath in 1860. Sir George married, Feb. 28, 1811, Georgiana Mary, second daughter of Admiral the Hon. Sir George Cranfield Berkeley, G.C.B., and leaves, with junior issue, Lieutenant-General Francis Hugh George Seymour, C.B., Groom in Waiting to the Queen, who now becomes heir presumptive to the honours of the noble house of Hertford. Countess Spencer, wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, is one of the deceased Admiral's nieces.

SIR T. H. MADDOCK.

Sir Thomas Herbert Maddock, formerly Deputy Governor of Bengal and President of the Council of India, died on the 15th inst., at Grosvenor Mansions, Victoria-street, in his seventy-eighth year. This distinguished civil servant of the East India Company, son of the Rev. Thomas Maddock, M.A., Prebendary of Chester and Rector of Northenden, was educated at Manchester Grammar School and Haileybury College, and entered the H.E.I.C.'s civil service in 1811. After passing through several minor appointments, he became Political Resident at Lucknow in 1829; Secretary to the Government of India in 1838; and, finally, Deputy Governor of Bengal and President of the Council of India, receiving the honour of knighthood by patent in 1844. He retired in 1849; and in 1852 was returned M.P. for Rochester, which borough he continued to represent as a Conservative, though in favour of free trade, until 1857. He married, in 1857, Emily Anne, daughter of Andrew Addis, Esq.

COLONEL LESLIE.

Charles Leslie, Esq., of Balquhain, Fetternear, and Inch, in the county of Aberdeen, Knight of the Guelphic Order, Colonel in the Army, late of the Grenadier Guards, died at Slindon House, Sussex, on the 10th inst. Colonel Leslie, who was the twenty-sixth Baron of Balquhain, was fourth son of John Leslie, of Balquhain, and brother of Count Ernest Leslie, Baron of Balquhain, who entered the Austrian army, served in the various campaigns from 1796 to 1813, and was present at most of the great battles, from Hohenlinden to Dresden. The Leslies of Balquhain, sprung from a common ancestor with the noble house of Rothes, have been for centuries distinguished in the service of Austria. At the opening of the seventeenth century Walter Leslie, second son of the tenth Baron of Balquhain, was created a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, and married Princess Anne Francisca de Dietrichstein. In 1760 Anthony, Count Leslie, heir male of the family, having succeeded to the German estates, was precluded from holding, at the same time, the Scottish property, which eventually passed by entail through the female line, to Patrick Leslie-Duguid,

twenty-first Baron of Balquhain, grandfather of Colonel Leslie, whose death we record. Colonel Leslie married, first, November, 1826, Mary, daughter of Major-General Sir Charles Holloway (by whom he leaves one surviving son, Charles Stephen); and, secondly, July 31, 1836, Dorothea Eyre, heiress of Hassop, in the county of Derby, who assumed, under a misconception, the title of Countess of Newburgh. Colonel Leslie served in the Peninsular War, and was severely wounded at Talavera.

MAJOR-GENERAL HODGSON.

Major-General John Studholme Hodgson, of H.M.'s Bengal Army, died on the 14th inst., at his residence, Stanhope-terrace, Hyde Park. This distinguished officer entered the military service of the East India Company, as Ensign in the Bengal Infantry, in 1822, became Lieutenant in 1824, Captain in 1834, Major in 1846, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1849, Colonel in 1854, and General in 1861. He took part in the campaign of the Sutlej, and was wounded at the battle of Sohraon. He also served in the Punjab, 1848-9; was engaged in various affairs against the insurgents under Ram Sing; and commanded, in 1853, a force employed against the hill tribes west of Dejarat. Major-General Hodgson was the second son of the late General Hodgson, Colonel of the King's Own Regiment.

MR. J. T. NORRIS.

John Thomas Norris, Esq., late M.P. for Abingdon, a magistrate for Berkshire, and a Commissioner of Lieutenancy of London, died on the 15th inst., at his residence, Sutton Courtney, Berkshire. He was born in 1808, the youngest son of Mr. Edmund Norris, of Sutton Courtney, paper manufacturer, by his wife, a daughter of Mr. William Henly. Mr. J. T. Norris, who for many years took an active part in the business and civic proceedings of the metropolis, represented in the Common Council the ward of Aldersgate, in conjunction with the present Lord Mayor; but he eventually retired from the Corporation, and devoted himself to his paper manufactures in Berks and Oxfordshire. He contested unsuccessfully the borough of Abingdon in 1864; but was returned to the Parliament of 1867. He continued to sit for it until 1865, and always gave his support to the Liberal party. He was one of the most active promoters of the removal of Smithfield Market. He married, first, in 1840, Emily Frances, only daughter of Francis Hume Choppin, Esq.; and, secondly, in 1858, Selina, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Charles Mackenzie, R.N.

THE REV. R. WILLIAMS.

The Rev. Rowland Williams, D.D., late Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, died at the Vicarage, Broadchalk, Salisbury, on the 18th inst., after a few days' illness. He was born in Flintshire, in 1817, the son of the Rev. R.R. Williams, M.A., Canon of St. Asaph. He received his education at Eton, where he became Newcastle medallist, and was elected to a scholarship at King's College, Cambridge. In 1841 he took his degree and entered into holy orders. For eight years after he was classical tutor of his college, and subsequently Vice-Principal and Professor of Hebrew at St. David's College, Lampeter. In 1849 he gained the Muir prize for an essay, afterwards published under the title of "Hinduism and Christianity Compared;" and in 1850 he was appointed Chaplain to the Bishop of Llandaff. In 1855 appeared his volume of sermons entitled "Rational Godliness after the Mind of Christ;" and in 1859 he accepted from his college the Vicarage of Broadchalk. Previously he had published "Christian Freedom in the Council of Jerusalem" (1858), and a "Review of the Bishop of Llandaff's Charge" (1857); and, in 1860, contributed the essay on "Bunsen's Biblical Researches" to "Essays and Reviews." For this article Mr. Williams was one of the two essayists selected to be prosecuted on the charge of heresy. The suit was long protracted, but terminated at last in a declaration of the Judicial Committee that Mr. Williams's opinions might be held by a clergyman of the Church of England. In 1865 he published a critical preface to Desprez's "Daniel;" in 1866, the "Prophecy of Israel and Judah," the first volume of a revised edition of the Hebrew Prophets; in 1867, "Broadchalk Sermon Essays;" and at various times essays, in the *Quarterly*, on Welsh Methodism, the Welsh Church, Welsh Bards, and Stonehenge. He was also the author of "Orestes," an adaptation to English readers of the "Eumenides;" and of "Lays from the Cimbric Lyre."

WILLS AND BEQUESTS.

The will of Admiral Sir Watkin Owen Pell, Knt., R.N., Commissioner of Greenwich Hospital, was proved in London on the 12th inst., and the personality sworn under £30,000. The executors appointed are Lady Pell, the relict; Sir Joshua Rowe, Knt., late Chief Justice of Jamaica; and John Ward Nicholls, Esq., of Greenwich. To the two last named he leaves a legacy of £50 each, as a trifling acknowledgment for the trouble they will have. The gallant Admiral entered the Navy in 1799, had seen much active service, was twice severely wounded, and died on Dec. 29 last, at Queen's House, Greenwich, at the advanced age of eighty-two. His will bears date Feb. 21, 1866. He leaves to his wife a life interest in all his property, furniture, plate, and carriages, and after her decease to his children equally amongst them, and to her Ladyship he leaves an immediate legacy of £500. He directs that his estates be sold and the proceeds invested in the funds, and the interest paid to her Ladyship for her life, and gives her a power of appointment over the principal amongst her children; but if there should be none living, and on failure of any appointment, then he leaves the same to the children of his brother Edwin.

The will of Francis Hallows, Esq., Commander R.N., late of Glapwell Hall, Bolsover, Derbyshire, formerly of Coednear, Dolgellay, Merionethshire, was proved in London, on the 10th inst., by Mary Hallows, the relict, the sole executrix. The personality was sworn under £40,000. The will is dated 1862, and two codicils Nov. 17 and 18, 1869; and the testator died Dec. 1, 1869. He leaves to his eldest son, the Rev. Brabazon Hallows, M.A., Vicar of Kilken, Flintshire, a legacy of £500, and all his freehold estates, except his estate of Seizen Park, Wicklow, Ireland, which he leaves to his son Francis. He has made some specific as well as pecuniary legacies to members of his family. He leaves to his wife a life interest arising from the residue of his personal estate; and after her decease he directs that his personal estate be divided into five parts, leaving two parts between his sons, Francis and William, and the remaining three parts amongst his daughters. He leaves to his wife the use of all his plate and household furniture for her life, which at her decease will form part of his residuary estate.

The will of Alexander Fotheringham, Esq., formerly of Sydney, New South Wales, and late of Gunfield, near Dartmouth, Devon; and Upper Tooting, Surrey, was proved in London, on the 7th inst., by Elizabeth Thornton Fotheringham, his relict, the sole executrix for life. He has appointed as trustees the Rev. W. Jephson, M.A.; Philip W. Flower, Esq., Princes-street, London; and Wickham Flower, Esq., of Great Winchester-street, London, who are also nominated executors on the decease of his relict. The personal estate was sworn under £100,000. He leaves his estates, real and personal, to the trustees to pay to his wife a life interest therefrom, and gives her a power of appointment over the principal in favour of his children; but on failure of such appointment, and there being no children to take a vested interest therein, then he bequeaths the same to certain persons named by him in his will.

The will of Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Thomas Browne Boyd was proved under £10,000 personality.

The will of Mr. Thomas Olney, of Balham-hill, and High-street, Borough, Lincolndrapers, was proved in London, under £20,000 personality, by his four sons, the joint acting executors. The testator was the senior deacon at Mr. Spurgeon's Metropolitan Tabernacle. He bequeaths to the Metropolitan Tabernacle College £200, and a like sum to the building fund of the said college; also the sum of £100 to be paid to the poor members of the Tabernacle. He leaves to the Baptist Missionary Society £100; the Baptist Home Missionary Society, £50; and a like sum to the Baptist Irish Society.

CHESS.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. DENDRINO.—It shall appear before long.
R. C. Bury St. Edmunds.—Your *modus operandi* in Mr. Howitz's ingenious end-game is the true one.
R. D. T., S. G., A. D. L., F. L. H. W. ARCHER, and a host of others.—To save time and trouble, we mention, once for all, that Problem No. 1351 can be solved only in the way the author has shown.
I. G. B., Netherlands.—They are both clever, but not sufficiently so, for publication.
L. H. Lorthouse and A. L. S.—They shall be reported on very speedily.
Baz.—We cannot afford more space to explain what any player of a month's practice should find out himself.
THE CORRECT SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 1351 has been received from Selin, B. A. G. W. Haycraft; H. and E. Frau, of Lyons; Fred Wood, Simon, W. S. G., Felix, Box and Cox, Grey Friar, Sawney, W. B., Jerry, Stella, Orazio, Pip, Wm. Sheddon; Café Venitien, Liège; C. E. B., Kitty, John Corner, L. S. D., Presis, Rip van Winkle, H. W. D. G., Charley, Nil Desperandum, J. W. B., Alderley, K. Baudoux, I. N. Keynes, Sim, Nemo, Sawney, H. W. B., The Hague; W. Hirst, William; H. D. H., of Helensburgh; Luttrell, Ben W., F. C. N., W. H. T., J. H. B., Sempronius, O. D. V., Mrs. Partington, S. W. T., I. B. K., R. Banks, Henry, Fido, A. T., 1870, Boxer, W. T. E., Victor; S. P. A. H., of Bruges; Dreadnought, Ebury, Whistler, Bantsee, D. D., R. B. A., Sam Slick, Dan, Paris, Velocipede, C. W. S., Major H., A. Clerk, Drury; Peregrine, Travellers' Club; I. T. White, W. Marshall, Volunteer, and L. H. Lorthouse.

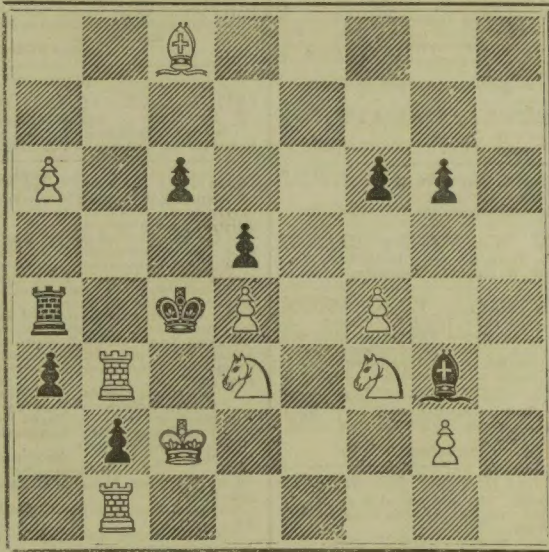
SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 1351.
WHITE. BLACK.
1. R to K B 7th Any move 2. Checkmates

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM NO. 1352.
WHITE. BLACK.
1. Q takes Q R P R to Q 4th (ch) 3. Kt to Q R 6th
2. K to K R 6th R takes Q 4. Mates by R takes
If he play here R takes Kt, then follow—3. P to Q K 7th (ch), and 4. Q takes R, mate. B or P to Q K 7th, &c.

PROBLEM NO. 1353.

By Mr. T. SMITH.

BLACK.



WHITE.
White is to play, and mate his opponent in four moves.

MR. COCHRANE'S GAMES.

The following short Game is neither very profound nor very accurate, but it may prove as amusing, possibly, as if it were both. The combatants were Mr. COCHRANE and MOHESCHUNDER BONNERJEE.

(K's Bishop's Opening.)

BLACK (M. B.) WHITE (Mr. C.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th
2. B to Q B 4th B to Q B 4th
3. Kt to K B 3rd Q to K 2nd
4. P to Q B 3rd P to Q 3rd
5. Castles B to Q Kt 3rd
6. P to Q 4th B to K Kt 5th
7. P takes P B takes Kt
8. Q takes B P takes P
9. B to K Kt 5th P to K B 3rd
10. B takes Kt R takes B
11. B to K R 4th Kt to Q 2nd
12. P to Q Kt 4th Castles
13. P to Q R 4th P to Q B 3rd
14. P to Q R 5th B to Q B 2nd
15. Kt to Q R 3rd P to Q R 3rd
16. Q to K 3rd Kt to Kt sq
17. K R to Q Kt sq Kt to B sq
18. P to K B 3rd P to K Kt 4th
19. B to K B 2nd P to K Kt 5th
Desperate, like his position.

20. Kt to Q B 4th P takes P
21. Q to Q R 7th (ch) K to B sq
22. Kt to Kt 6th (ch)
This was premature. He had only to have advanced his K Kt Pawn a step, and Mr. Cochrane won the game.

A brilliant Skirmish between Mr. C. and MOHESCHUNDER BONNERJEE.
(Philidor's Defence.)

WHITE (Mr. C.) BLACK (M. B.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th
2. P to K B 3rd P to Q 3rd
3. P to Q 4th P takes P
4. Q takes P Kt to Q B 3rd
5. B to Q Kt 5th B to Q 2nd
6. B takes Kt P takes B
7. B to K Kt 5th P to K B 3rd
8. B to K B 4th Q to K 2nd
9. Kt to Q B 3rd Q to K 3rd
10. Castles, K's side Kt to K 2nd
11. K R to K sq P to K R 3rd
12. Kt to Q 5th K to Q 2nd
13. Kt to K R 4th K to B 2nd
14. P to Q B 4th B takes Kt
15. K P takes B P to K Kt 4th
16. R to K 6th B to K Kt 2nd
17. Q R to K sq K R to K sq
18. Q to K 4th P takes B
19. Q to K R 7th P takes B
Moheschunder must have learned by

This brief Affair, one of the shortest games on record, was played the other day between Mr. COCHRANE and a Member of the St. George's Chess Club.
(King's Gambit declined.)

BLACK (Amateur). WHITE (Mr. C.)
1. P to K 4th P to K 4th
2. P to K B 4th Kt to Q B 3rd
3. Kt to K B 3rd B to Q B 4th
4. P takes P K takes P
5. Kt takes Kt Q to K R 5th (ch)
6. P to K Kt 3rd Q takes K P (ch)
7. Q to K 2nd Q takes R
8. Kt to K 6th Kt to K 2nd
(dis. ch)
9. Kt takes R P to Q 3rd

(To the Editor of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.)

"Sic vos non vobis."
Sir,—In a recent number of the *Neue Berliner Schachzeitung* (at page 343 of the volume for 1899) a game appears under the heading "De Rivière's Eröffnung." What M. de Rivière has to do with the opening I know not; but this I am sure of, that it was introduced before he was heard of as a chess-player. The merit of it is entirely due to Mr. Staunton, who adopted it in a game played against Mr. Horwitz and published in the "Handbook" (p. 399) upwards of twenty years ago. The two games are identical down to the tenth move. Is it of ignorance that the Continental chess editors put a slight of this sort on the great English authority, or must their readers hazard a still less creditable conjecture?—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. M'ARTHUR.
Aberdeen, Jan. 20, 1870.

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES IN FEBRUARY.

The Moon will be in conjunction with Venus on the 2nd, Jupiter on the 8th, Saturn on the 24th, and Mercury on the 27th. She will be nearest to the earth on the 6th, and most distant from it on the 18th. During February the following stars will be occulted by the Moon:—

Date.	Star.	Mag.	Disappearance.	Reappearance.
Feb. 7.	Mu Ceti	4	Mean Time. 11.51 p.m.	Mean Time. 12.46 p.m.
" 10.	m Tauri	5½	9.8 p.m.	9.50 p.m.
" 11.	Chi 1 Orionis	4½	4.50 p.m.	5.46 p.m.
" 11.	Chi 4 Orionis	5	10.44 p.m.	10.48 p.m.
" 16.	l Leonis	5	6.55 p.m.	7.50 p.m.

Mercury will be at its greatest western elongation on the 28th at 5h. 23m. p.m. On the 5th he rises at 6.58 a.m., and on the 25th at 5.57 a.m., or 59m. before the Sun. At about this date he may be seen near the south-eastern horizon, about 30m. before sunrise. He will be stationary among the stars on the 14th, and in conjunction with the Moon on the evening of the 27th.

Venus is visible in the south-western sky soon after sunset. She will be near the Moon on the evening of the 2nd, and sets on the 5th at 7.42 p.m., and on the 25th at 5.43 p.m., or 13m. after the Sun. She will not be far distant from Mars on the 18th, and will be in inferior conjunction with the Sun on the 23rd. This planet may be distinctly seen with the naked eye at any time during the day if the weather is favourable for such an observation.

Mars continues to be unfavourably situated for observation. He will be in perihelion on the 11th, and in conjunction with Venus on the 18th.

Jupiter sets on the 10th at 0.48 a.m., and on the 20th at 0.15 a.m., or 6h. 54m. after the Sun. He will be due south on the 5th at 5.39 p.m., and on the 15th at 5.4 p.m. His satellites and their shadows may be observed in transit over the disc of their primary on the evenings of the 7th, 14th, and 23rd. This planet is a very brilliant object, and may be easily recognised by anyone acquainted with its position in the sky. He will be near the Moon on the evening of the 7th.

Saturn is a morning star, rising on the 5th at 4.39 a.m., and on the 25th at 3.27 a.m. He will be visible in the south-east portion of the sky before sunrise. On the 24th he will be in conjunction with the Moon. Owing to his low southern declination he is not in a good position for observation, but may be well seen in a few months, when he will be visible in the evenings. This planet is a very beautiful object when seen through a powerful telescope, his rings, belts, and satellites presenting a grand appearance.

Uranus may be observed during the greater part of the night. He will be in conjunction with the Moon on the morning of the 13th, and sets on the 5th at 6.32 a.m., and on the 15th at 5.51 a.m.

Neptune is visible in the constellation Pisces. Owing to his great distance he is perfectly imperceptible to the unassisted eye, and equals in brilliancy a star of the eighth magnitude.

WEEKLY RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Registrar-General gives the following return of births and deaths in London and in nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom during the week ending Saturday, Jan. 22:—

In London the births of 2239 children (1130 boys and 1109 girls) were registered in the week. In the corresponding weeks of ten years (1860-9) the average number, corrected for increase of population, is 2283.

The deaths registered in London during the week were 1652. It was the third week of the year; and the average number of deaths for that week is, with a correction for increase of population, 1794. The deaths in the present return are less by 142 than the estimated number. The deaths from zymotic diseases were 374, the corrected average number being 358. Eight deaths from smallpox, 41 from measles, 143 from scarlet fever, 8 from diphtheria, 55 from whooping-cough, 12 from typhus fever, 12 from enteric (or typhoid) fever, 15 from simple continued fever, and 15 from diarrhoea were registered. The registrar of the Trinity sub-district of St. Saviour, Southwark, remarks, in reference to a fatal case of smallpox, which occurred at 10, Harper-street:—"There have been four cases of smallpox in this family, none vaccinated, the parents objecting. The street is fully populated." The deaths from scarlet fever were 29 in excess of the number recorded in the previous week. Eighteen cases occurred in the west districts, 27 in the north, 15 in the central, 31 in the east, and 52 in the south districts. Plithis and pneumonia were not so fatal as in the previous week; but the deaths from bronchitis exhibit an increase. The deaths of 7 children and 1 adult from burns or scalds, of 2 persons from drowning, of 8 infants from suffocation, and of 8 persons who committed suicide were registered. The deaths of 12 nonagenarians were registered, the oldest was a person who attained the age of 95 years. The deaths of 2 persons who were killed by horses or vehicles in the streets were registered.

During the week 5166 births and 3831 deaths were registered in London and nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom. The annual rate of mortality was 28 per 1000 persons living, and the same as in the previous week. The annual rates of mortality last week in the seventeen English cities and boroughs, ranged in order from the lowest, were as follow:—19 per 1000 in Wolverhampton, 19 in Bradford, 21 in Hull, 21 in Portsmouth, 22 in Norwich, 23 in Leicester, 23 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 24 in Sunderland, 25 in Birmingham, 26 in Leeds, 26 in Liverpool, 27 in London, 30 in Salford, 31 in Manchester, 31 in Nottingham, 31 in Sheffield, and (the highest rate during the week) 37 per 1000 in the city of Bristol. Scarlet fever showed an increased fatality last week in London, Sheffield, and Leeds, but had declined in several of the other large towns. The greatest mortality from this disease last week occurred in Ecclesall Bierlow sub-district of Sheffield borough, which, from an estimated population of about 56,000 persons, returned 36 deaths, of which 18 were fatal cases of scarlet fever. In these seventeen large English towns, 247 deaths were referred to scarlet fever last week, against 241 and 218 in the two previous weeks. Whooping-cough continues somewhat fatally prevalent in Manchester and Salford, and in Birmingham. The deaths registered last week in Edinburgh were at the annual rate of 36 per 1000 persons living; in Glasgow, 38 per 1000; and in Dublin, 29. Scarlet fever shows an increasing fatality in Dublin, and resulted in 15 deaths last week.

In the week ending Jan. 22 the deaths registered in Paris showed an annual death-rate of 27 per 1000 persons living; the deaths in Berlin in the seven days ending Thursday, the 20th inst., gave an annual rate of 23 per 1000; and in Vienna during the week ending the 15th inst. of 28 per 1000. Smallpox is very prevalent in Paris, and caused 48 deaths last week, against 40 and 27 in the two previous weeks. In London the deaths from smallpox in the three past weeks have, together, not exceeded 28.

A special commission of experts is about to be dispatched to England by the Russian Minister of the Interior, in order to inspect the construction and qualities of the "narrow-gauge" railways, with a view to the adoption of the same system in Russia.

A project has been revived for laying a submarine cable from Marseilles, via Corsica, to Algiers, and thence along the coast of Africa to Alexandria, where it will join the Indian line.—A crude outline has been circulated of a project for a steam and railroad service from England to Australia in less than forty days—namely, Milford Haven to Portland (Maine) in nine days, Portland to San Francisco by railway in seven days, and San Francisco to Australia and New Zealand in twenty-three days.

A curious suggestion has been made in the Prussian Parliament by Count von Frankenberg. He proposes that the votes on a division should be taken by telegraph, a wire being attached to the seat of each member, and the vote registered on a dial-plate in the wall of the Chamber, much in the same way in which telegraphic communication is kept up between the bed-rooms and offices in some of the large hotels. By the process he thinks that votes could be given and the result announced in less than half a minute.

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